WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 1997

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Blair is accused of 'zero honesty' on beggars

Chief Political Correspondent

The election dirt started flying yesterday as John Major accused Tony Blair of "zero honesty" and hypocrisy over the Labour leader's support for action to clear the streets of beggars.

Mr Blair will today hit hack by drawing up Labour's hattle lines with the Tories on Mr Major's alleged weak leadership, and education. The Labour leader will seek to contrast his leadership with Mr Major's lack of control over his "ungovernable" party. The Prime Minister, in a polished

40-minute press conference, set the tone for the presidential-style election campaign which the Tories will be mounting behind him. He set out three main themes for the Tory fight-



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Section 186

back: the economy, Europe and opposition to Labour's plans for constitutional reform.

. And in the course of the questioning, Mr Major answered one of the eight key electoral questions raised yesterday in The Independent. Asked whether he would propose Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, Mr Major gave a firm "no". The Prime Minister, who was last night holding talks with the Dutch prime minister Wim Kok over Britain's objections to German plans for a multi-speed Europe said there was no

"remotely plausible case for leaving".
He traded hlows with Mr Blair over the Labour leader's "conversion" to Mr Major's views on tackling the problem of beggars on the streets.

Mr Blair's support for "zero tolerance" for petty crime, including ag-gressive begging, beggared belief"he said. The Prime Minister had been attacked by Mr Blair for his "vindictiveness pettiness and small mindedness when Mr Major called for

similar action in 1994.
Given what I said then and what Labour said of me, I would think

QUICKLY

Major stands firm John Major said he would not

use any clever dodge to rule out

Britain's entry into a single currency before the general

months recruiting a multina-

tional force of mercenaries to

Global Challenger balloon in his

latest attempt to circumnavigate

Branson airborne

serve in Zaure.

the world.

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Page 3

Labour's hypocrisy beggars helief. It is a case of zero detail and zero honesty from them." he said.

The Labour leader's support for clearing the streets drew fire from groups supporting the homeless. But the Labour leadership appeared satisfied with the coverage given to Mr Blair's remarks in the Big Issue, un-derlining his message that Labour will have a hard edge to its social policies. Mr Blair's "rehuttal unit", however, denied the Prime Minister's charge of hypocrisy, insisting that Mr Blair had called for firm action against "aggressive beggars" in May 1994, but had always insisted that it should be coupled with action to tackle the causes of homelessness. The cross-fire over the issue of beggars on Britain's streets offered confirmation that the election could quickly descend into the gutter particularly after the threat by the publicist Max Clifford to dish more dirt on the Tories.

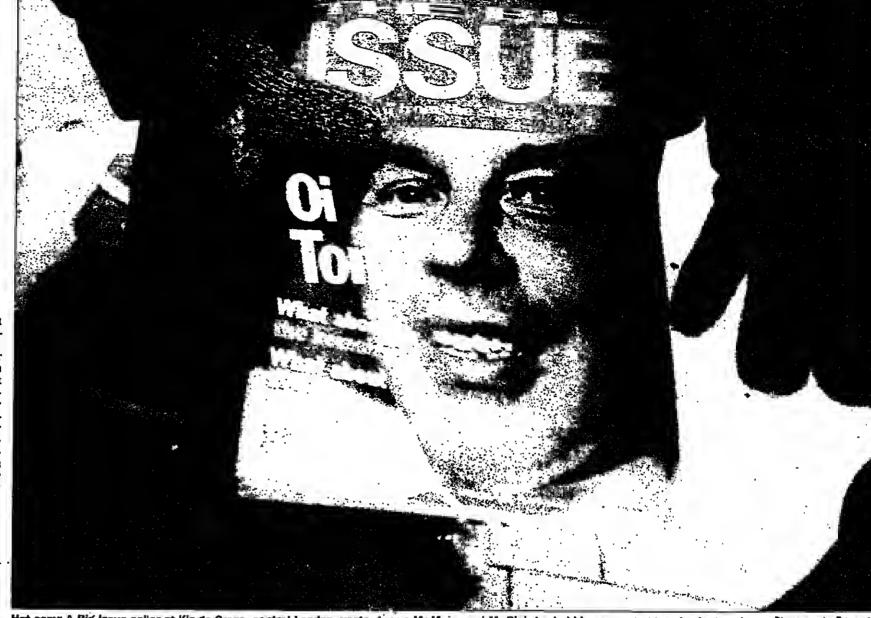
It also led to the spectacle of leading politicians lining up to say whether they gave money to beggars. Mr Blair said he did not. Mr Major said he did - millions in taxpayers money for hos-tel beds. The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, said he did not give to beggars. John Prescott, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, said he did not give money to beggars. "I sometimes offer to buy them a cup of lea at King's Cross Station. I'm not sure they always want to take me up," he said.

Giving an upbeat account of the "sparkling" prospects for the econo-my, the choice before the British electorate would be between "smiles and tears", said Mr Major. He denied the Tory election posters - featuring a family shedding a "red tear" - amounted to negative campaigning, but Mr Prescott also carefully distanced Labour from Mr Clifford's antics.

The Prime Minister made it clear that the Tory election strategy is based on the central theme of "don't throw it all away". The Tory election manifesto will come later, atthough strategists are arguing that it would be better to break with tradition and give away hits of the proposals for a fifth term of office before the election is called. It is likely that much of the Tory manifesto wilt be "trailed" before it is

officially launched. After the press conference, Mr Ma-jor showed his readiness for the coming battle by circulating among the journalists at an informal drinks party. His performance had confirmed the belief among party leaders that he is their strongest asset.

Homeless speak out, Major's Europe pledge, David Aaronovitch, page 4



Hot copy: A Big Issue seller at King's Cross, central London, yesterday as Mr Major and Mr Blair traded blows over 'aggressive beggars'

Photograph: Edward Sykes

Hank Marvin's son found dead in hostel

Police are investigating the sudden death of the eldest son of the guitar legend Hank Marvin who was found dead in his bed at a homeless hostel at the age of 34.

Dean Marvin, who had been estranged from his father for more than a decade after publicly challenging his "Mr Nice Guy" image, had lived in the YMCA hostel in Crouch End, north London, for the past five years.

He had few possessions - not even the guitar which he once hoped would bring him fame and fortune - and kept quiet about the fact that his father was the former Shadows guitarist. He was. however, proud of the fact that Sir Cliff Richard was his godfather although be had not seen him for more than 20 years. In 1983, Dean told a newspaper that

religious differences had caused the rift hetween Dean and his father, a Jehovah's Witness. He admitted to a drink problem, which later cost him his office job and left him surviving on dole handouts.

Hank Marvin later commented: "It's never ideal that a close relative should walk away from you like that,



Happier days: The Marvin family in 1966 Photograph: Bill Orchard/Rex

it doesn't mean you will always be friends." Louis Lewis, general secretary of the YMCA hostel, described Dean as "a nice person, but at the same

time a private person".
"He had lost contact with his fam-Suzanne Moore, page 12 but as t've matured I've realised that Suzanne Moore, page 12 just because you have a blood bond, of was the fact that Cliff Richard was sold 200,000 copies.

yesterday tissued a statement via his agent which read: "It does not matter who the victim is, it is a sad indictment on society when people die in this way.

'tt is more painful when the person is known to you, although t have not seen Dean since his family split in the late Sixties. My sympathy goes out to his mum and dad who t know must be devastated."

Dean Marvin was discovered lying fully clothed on top of his bed on Monday morning. The cause of his death is not known, but police said there appeared to be no suspicious circumstances. A post-moriem examination

will he carried out today. After his parents divorced in 1971. Dean lived in Mill Hill, north London, with his mother, Beryl, and twin brothers Peter and Paul, now 33, and sister Philippa, now 30. Ten years ago, Hank went to live in Australia with his sec-ond wife. Carole, and his two children

from his second marriage. Hank, who is almost into his 40th year of his musical career, is due to re-turn to Britain in March for a tour of 42 concerts. His latest album - released in November last year - has already

served the country well - and

some members of the Royal

Family who had behaved frightfully badly".

On the Munarch he said:

"She stands as a glowing ex-

ample of what is possible, as a

Head of State who is responsi-

ble and takes her job serious-

He also saw no prospect of

an end to the institution despite

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Queen launches PR offensive as viewers vote on monarchy

Mercenaries recruited Two former French soldiers Michael Streeter have spent the past three

On the day that the role of the monarchy came under its most public examination, the Queen yesterday made her own modest attempt to create positive Richard Branson and two frieods took off in his Virgin headlines for the Royal Fami-

Just hours before last night's unprecedented live television dehate on the institution, it was announced that the Queen will take part in a re-creation of

The Queen and Prince Philip will be on board a £1.5m repli-

flagship, when it starts to re-trace his steps on 2 May. The Royal couple will be on

board for more than a mile as the ship sales through Bristol docks with the Duke at the helm for part of the way. John Cabot is credited with taking the English language to what is now the United States. They will also be flying out to Canada for the end of the seven-week voyage nn 24 June to meet the three-masted

square-rigger on its arrival. St John Hartnell, Chairman John Cahot's voyage of discovery to Newfoundland 500 years of the Matthew Project, said yest could not helieve it when the Onecn accepted my invitation." It was also announced that ties and members of the public

the Queen is to take on the role both for and against the insti-of patron of the animal charity tution. The live audience of The Blue Cross which celebrates its 100th anniversary later this year. The previous patron was the Duchess of York

before her resignation in 1992. For the Royal Family the double announcement engendered welcome publicity just as last night's dehate, called The Monarchy: The Nution Decides, got underway on ITV.

Up to 2 million viewers were expected to lake part in a telephone vote on the future of the Monarchy, the biggest of its kind in British television, after a debate between experts, celebri-

3.000 at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham included 3,000 people brought in from 20 cities around the United Kingdom.

Already a MORI poll commissioned by the programme has found that nearly 50 per cent of people do not expect the Monarchy to survive beyond the year 2050.

However, there was support for the Queen from last night's television anchor man, the newscaster Trevor McDooald.

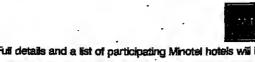
its present problems thrugh accepted the need for a dehate. 1 do not think the case has been made out for anything else. Speaking during rehearsals not with any strength of feeling. he said there was an important It seems to me that the Monardistinction between the Monar- chy will survive."

ca of The Matthew, Cabot's

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Scots set to lose out in millennium overspend

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

A £78m project to renew the canal linking Edinburgh and Glasgow with the help of Millennium Commission cash is being put in jeopardy by threatened overspending on the Greenwich Exhibition, accord-

ing to Scottish MPs.
The MPs fear that the Millennium Link plan, which needs £30m of Millennium Commission cash, is at risk. They will be seeking an early meeting with Virginia Bottomley, the Her-itage Secretary, when Parliament resumes next week.

The MPs point to potential overspending on the Greenwich Exhibition which has been promised £200m of Commission money but has not been able to attract matching funding from the private sector. The project's £700m budget has already been rejected by the Commission because it lacks detail.

The Millennium Link project aims to regenerate the Forth & Clude I him proper have a project before the commission because which have the forth & Clude I him or project have the f

boats between the two canals at Falkirk to replace 11 aban-

doned locks. British Waterways, which is promoting the scheme, but not putting in any money, said it expects that 10 million visitors will be attracted to the Link each year and that it would be used by around 500 boats and yachts.

Tony Worthington, MP for Clydebank and Milngavie. said: We don't understand why the Millennium Commission reahead when all the matching been allocated."

funding is already in place." Scottish Enterprise has promised £16m and the rest will come from local authorities and businesses. A consultants' report suggested that 4,200 permanent jobs would be created and £400m of private sector investment attracted by the

scheme for the 70-mile link. The scheme, first put forward nearly two years ago, was considered by the Commission in December but no decision was taken. The Scottish MPs suspect this is because of concern that Greewnich will need more than £200m of Millennium funding.

Mr Worthington said: "We are not against the project at Greenwich, but the costs do seem to he getting out of hand, putting other projects in jeopardy. There is a fixed pot of money and if Greenwich's costs escalate, then the money has to come from somewhere."

Sam Galbraith MP, who represents Strathkelvin and Bearsden, said: "This is such a valuable project that it seems Clyde Union canals which have amazing that the go-ahead has been blocked off for 60 years. not been given. It has enormous Its main focus will be the "Anto- potential for regenerating large nine Wheel", a giant revolving swathes of Scotland as it goes through many very deprived areas. There is no possible reason why it is being delayed except for worries about money."

Mr Galbraith challenged the Commission to put out a statement guaranteeing that only £200m would he spent on Greenwich.

A spokeswoman for the Commission said last night that £1bn had been allocated for capital projects which was separate from the £200m for the Exhibition. She said: "So far, fuses to give this scheme the go- £700m out of the £1hn has

Off with his head as knight feels cutbacks



The statue of Sir Walter Raleigh outside the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, London, is given protection rather than dignity while tree surgeons work nearby

British newspapers lead the world on recycling

Clare Garner

Britain's newspaper industry is leading the world after reaching its target of using at least 40 per cent recycled paper four years ahead of schedule. All national and major re-

gional newspapers have been awarded the green stamp of approval in a Government-backed recycling programme. From now on they will print daily the industry recycling logo with the Secretary of State for the Engroup Friends of the Earth is

British newspapers. Between 1990 and 1995, the

proportion of waste paper in rose from 26.8 per cent to 34.5 per cent. For the first six months tials of individual titles.

Congratulating the newspaper industry, John Gummer,

major industry in reducing the impact of its operations on the choice, but Mr Gummer newsprint used by British papers environment and contributing to more sustainable waste management practices. I particularly of last year the figure was 41.2 welcome the fact that this has per cent. There are no figures heen achieved by voluntary available on the green creden- means and without Governintervention

regulation." The environmental pressure

average recycled content of vironment, said yesterday. This pressing for information on in-British newspapers. is a notable achievement by a dividual titles to be made public so that the consumer has a warned against "weazle words" such as those found on the back of many so-called environmentally Irlendly Christmas cards.

Dr Georgina Green, a Friends of the Earth forest campaigner, was not satisfied with the 40 per cent target. The organisation believes the figure should be nearer 80 per cent.

significant shorts

racing's rival lottery

A new lottery game already being televised in bookmakers has been given the all clear, it was

announced yesterday The legality of 49's had been questioned by the National Lottery operator, Camelot, which wrote to the Director of Public Prosecutions requesting clarification.

The company that operates the game, 49's Limited, said the Crown Prosecution Service told it on Monday that the game was lawful and was not open to challenge as an illegal lottery.

The CPS, according to 49's
Limited, said the game,

which offers fixed odds on bets on choosing five balls selected randomly from 49, did not have the characteristics of a lottery in

Rugby star cleared

The rugby league international Steve McCurrie was cleared yesterday of inflicting grievous bodily

The prosecution at Warrington Crown Court had alleged that the Great Britain star and former Widnes skipper shook the baby violently to try to stop her crying while her mother was

The haby stopped hreathing and had to be revived by an off-duty police officer. She subsequently stopped breathing on seven further occasions during a 10minute amhulance journey to hospital. She suffered bleeding behind both eyes and a hrain haemorrhage injuries which doctors claimed must have been

caused by violent shaking. McCurrie, 23, of Bedford, but formerly of Widnes, had denied the offence,

The player, who is in the Bedford rugby union side, admitted shaking the baby to try to stop her crying hut said he had only done so gently.

As he left the dock. McCurrie was embraced by

Children pocket Neighbours and firetight formed a human chain to big pay rise

Children received a pocket money "pay rise" of 17 per cent last year, more than six times the rate of inflation and man believed to be Mrs more than four times the

average increase in pay. The increase, taking the average to £2.40, is the highest since the early 1980s, said Cadbury's and Trebor Bassett in an annual review of shattered shop and house the confectionery market.

Go-ahead for London needs thousands more school places

A dramatic increase in school places, equivalent to at least 16 new secondary schools, will have to be provided in London within seven years to cope with a growing pupil population, according to an official study.

The report, produced by the Government's Funding Agency for Schools, will forecast a shortfall of up to 22,500 secondary places in the capital by 2003 if no independent has learned. Meeting demand will cost between £61m and £146m depending on how much leeway is left to

accommodate parents' school

The study provides new evidence that parental choice, the corner-stone of government education policy is in danger of collapse.

The bleak picture for the capital was underlined by figures released yesterday by Labour showing nearly one third of all appeals by parents denied the school of their choice were in London. Lucy

Two quizzed on IRA blast

The RUC was last night questioning two men over the IRA rocket attack on the High Court in the centre of Belfast on Monday.

They were arrested in the city earlier yesterday by detectives hunting the twoman gang which launched the attack from a passing car. The Army and police

across the whole of Northern Ireland were on alert against further IRA attacks and amid continuing fears of loyalist retaliation, despite assurances from political that their cease-fire was

Family hurt as home explodes

A massive explosion in which a mother and son were critically injured and their home wrecked was being investigated last night by gas safety experts.

Neighbours and firefighters move rubble trapping Maria Breen and her five-year-old son Ieuan.

Another son Colin, seven was taken to hospital and a Breen's boyfriend was also treated for minor injuries.

The 8am blast in New Tredegar, Gwent, south Wales, severely damaged two neighbouring properties and windows up to 80 yards away.

Jasis star escapes with caution over cocaine

The rock star Liam Gallagher escaped with a police caution yesterday for possessing

Gallagher. 24. singer with the best-selling group Oasis, was arrested two months ago in the West End of London and giv-

The decision at Marylebone star will be allowed to tour the United States with the band. In a statement afterwards, his

lawyer, Anthony Burton, said: "The police have considered it appropriate to caution Mr Liam Gallagher for possession of a controlled drug when he sur-rendered to bail ... at Marylebone Police Station. Mr Gallagher will not be prose-

Gallagher was held by police police station means that the in Oxford Street at seven in the morning after a night of drinking and celebrating Oasis's success at the Q magazine awards.

gument with his film actress girlfriend Patsv Kensit. Ms Kensit was shown pho-

tographs of Gallagher with an-other woman and then confronted her boyfriend with

It is alleged that Gallagher then emharked on an all-night drinking session with friends and was arrested by police who thought he was a vagrant.

Gallagher refused to make

The arrest followed an ar-ument with his film actress girl-openly admitted spending up to another caution." £300 a day on the drug.

However, the caution was attacked last night by Paul Betts will ruin the the father of Leah, the Essex reputation. teenager who died after taking ecstasy. Mr Betts, 50, said if he had the power be would not hesitate to send Gallagher to prison if he offends again. He said: "I'd be quite happy

to put him inside. He has been given a second chance and if he same?'.

Mr Betts helieves Liam has refused to apologise hecause it will ruin the band's bad boy

He said: "Oasis are a fantastic band, my daughter loved them. But young people look up to them as role models.

"If they see people like him get away with it they think what's stopping me doing the



Warning will atlow him to join US tour

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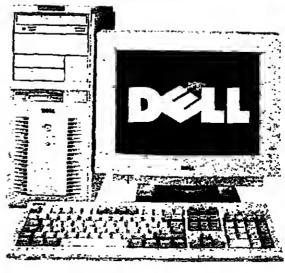
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Mad dogs and Englishmen

Branson lifts-off amid the tears

Charles Arthur

In the end there was no ceremony. At 11.19am the explosive bolts tethering the Virgin Global Challenger balloon to its concrete launchpad were activated. Silently the canopy, looking like a giant garlic hulh, moved up and south, mwards the snow-capped Atlas mountains and

Richard Branson hopes it is the start of three weeks which will see him and two friends break what he calls "the last great aviation record", by crossing the world non-stop in a balloon. But he knows it could be the last time his family ever sees him: a fatal crash-landing is entirely possi-hle. For that and other reasons, the five hours before the Moroccan launch were unusually emotional.

Even before dawn, there had been tears. Rory McCarthy, who had hoped he could shake off acute bronchitis to go on the global trip with Mr Branson. 46, and Per Lindstrand, the halloon's 47-year-old designer, was told at 5am by Mr Branson and his doctor that the risk was too great: if he flew, the cold, depressurised air in the capsule would turn his illness to pneumonia in 48 hours. "Ultimately it was my decision," said Dr Tim Evans. "I know daggers are drawn, but I know

Mr McCarthy was inconsolable, although he put on a hrave face for the cameras. He has trained hard and in- ly, and finally got in. vested £300,000 in the project. "When you've put so much of your loon were taken off. Then came that life into something ... I just can't de-scribe how I feel," he said at the airfield; as the sun rose at 7.45 and the less, hazy sky. A great adventure. preparations went on without him.
T'm sure the decision was right hut

that hasn't stopped me begging Richard to take me. A lot of tears

were shed," The third place went to Alex Ritchie, of Manningtree in Essex, at 52 the oldest member of the team. He was chief engineer on Mr Branson's Atlantic and Pacific halloon

Mr Branson arrived at the airfield at 8.30 to be greeted by Moroccan trihal dancers, ululating women, and traditionally dressed horsemen. Was he nervous? Not as nervous as perhaps I should be." he said, clasping his hands (as he does when nervous). "I know the danger, having been through the Atlantic and Pacific crossings so I hope the risks are less. But we're doing 8.000 miles over land initially, so if there are any serious glitches, hopefully we can sort them out before the Pacific."

After nearly dying in a ballooning adventure in 1987 he promised his family that he would not do anything dangerous again.

Conditions were perfect for a take-off. The trio posed for pictures and promised to be up and away within an hour, but the last minute checks went on for some time.

The final indication that it would go ahead came at 10.35. Mr Branson said goodbye to his parents at the spectators' barrier (intended to keep us safe if the propane tanks around the capsule exploded). Back at the capsule, he embraced his son Sam, 11, his wife Joan and daughter Hol-

At 11.10 the stays tethering the balcrack. Two hours later, the halloon was just a speck against the cloud-

Pressures of life in the jet stream

into the jet stream, a tube of air at 9,000 metres flowing from west to Their meals will consist of "wet

If it runs favourably, it should carry the unpowered halloon along at an average of 50mph. But it is possible to forecast the jet stream's patterns only five days ahead; if it breaks up in the next week, the voyage may become impossible. If necessary, the crew can parachute out. Their finishing point will depend heavily on

local prevailing winds.

The challenge of the task does not rest solely with the weather. Life inside the capsule of the Virgin. Global Challenger will be cramped. melly and disorientating. The three then have only 23 cubic metres in which to sleep, eat and use the toilet. There are no washing facilities: the tonne of water they are carrying is intended solely for drinking, because they will dehydrate rapidly in the pressurised air they will be breathing. This will be equivalent to living at an altitude of 2,500m. In order to avoid kidney damage, each

The crew aim to take the balloon up man will have to drink about five litres

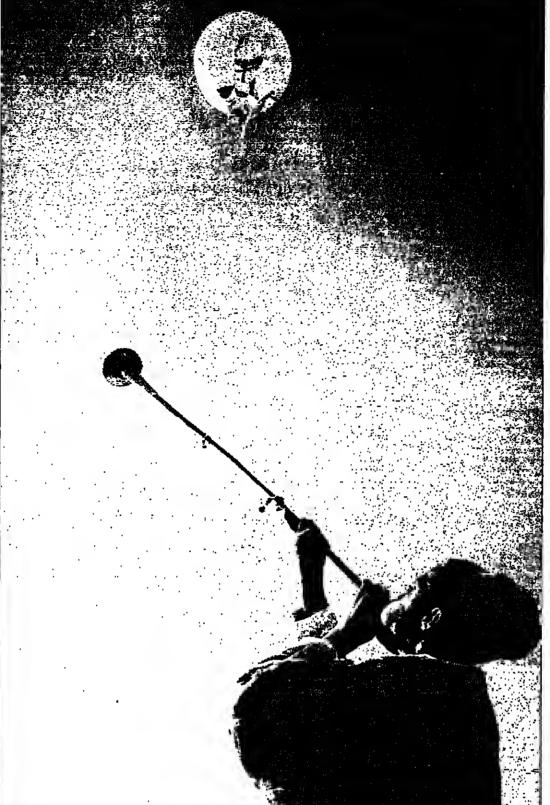
vegetables, amino acid tablets, and various daily "treats" - including a miniature of vodka, caviar and

There is no room to stretch the legs. The crew risk atrophy and might be unable to walk after 18 days. There will also be problems of sleep and orientation. There will always he one man taking eight hours rest in the sleeping compartment under the floorboards while the

other two work at the controls. As they cross time zones, the trio will find it hard to avoid some sort of jet lag, because of the body's natural tendency in isolation to run on

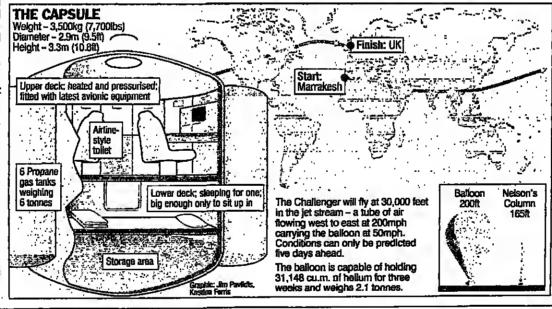
a 25-hour day.

The men will have a plentiful supply of human contact though, with a "chase plane" following their progress around the world, and radio links and satellite telephones allowing them to talk to family and



east at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, writes Charles Arthur.

microwave" dehydrated foods, Upwardly mobile: A Moroccan musician heralds Virgin Global Challenger's takeoff Photograph: David Rose complemented with fresh fruit and



Frigate races to capsized sailor

lan Burrell and Stuart Alexander

Rescuers searching for the British yachtsman Tony Bullimore last night admitted they were unlikely to know if he was alive until a frigate reaches his capsized boat tomorrow. Mr Bullimore, 57, is believed to be still on board his yacht, Exide Challenger, which capsized on Sunday 1,500 miles south-west of Perth. Western Australia.

Thierry Dubois, a fellow competitor in the Vendee Globe roundthe-world race, who also capsized, was last night described as "excep-tionally well". He has a radio and is in a liferaft. Rescuers hope he can help guide them to Mr Bullimore.

Rick Burleigh, manager of searchand-rescue operations at the Maritime Rescue Centre in Canberra. said: "We are trying to ascertain whether he can throw any light on Tony, because when this incident started they were reasonably close together. They may have been talking together and that could assist in establishing whether Tony is hattened down inside his boat or not."

Hopes for Mr Bullimore's safety were dented by the news that he had not sent a second distress signal, as was thought yesterday. Nevertheless, rescuers were confident the former Royal Marine from Bristol was pinned in the yacht's hull or had clambered into his liferaft.

As the operation continued, some Australians asked why they were being requested to pay millions of pounds to help international yachtsmen. Under the Law of the Sea Con-

capsized in the same race on 27 December, cost £77,000. The operation to save Mr Dubois and Mr Bullimore is costing that much each day for the main Orion search aircraft alone, excluding the wages of the crew. Tens of thousands more is being spent on the frigate. Adelaide, 30 of whose crew were recalled from holiday to take part in the operation.

A tanker, the Sanko Phoener, has been diverted to the scene and should arrive later tomorrow and a back-up ship, the Bestudia, is to leave Perth this morning. Four aircraft are involved but because of the sevenhour flight to the site, they can stay over the area for only three and a half hours before returning.

Last night Bronwyn Bishop, Australia's acting defence minister, said: "I can understand that taxpayers are concerned ... But I know that Australians are very concerned that we

find these two people alive."

Race organisers were also criticised for failing to change the route after a yachiswoman got lost in the same area two years ago, prompting a film rescue operation.

David Gray, of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, said: "We would prefer that yachts didn't go further than 45 degrees south. It's

getting beyond their capabilities."
Today the yachismen still face a five-metre swell in freezing seas hut the wind yesterday eased to 25 knots from 45-50 knots.

In Bristol, as the search entered its third day, Mr Bullimore's family prayed for good news. His sister Bunny, a Parcel Force manager from Bristol, said: "We've just got to keep vention. Australia has to rescue hoping. But until someone actually people in trouble within 1.500 miles sees Tony or manages to get in of its coast. The rescue of Raphael touch with him on the radio, we've Dinelli, another Frenchman who got to keep on waiting,

Surviving in the washing machine

Exide Challenger, it will be akin to living in a washing-machine, write Ian

Down there he is out of the wind and

Burrell and Stuart Alexander. perched on boxes of food, with three feet of water at his feet as the yacht pitches in heavy seas. Above the water level in the compartment, which measures nine feet by 10, will be an air pocket of about four feet to the ceiling, once the floor of the lower

cahin on the now overturned boat. "So much depends on whether he is getting air coming in through the door," said a member of Mr Bullimore's back-up team in Bristol yesterday. 'And that depends on the height of the flooding, because every-thing is moving all the time. Mr Bullimore's plight reopened

the dehate on whether it is best to remain on an upturned yacht or climb aboard a liferaft, like Thierry Duhois, the French competitor who capsized in the same storm.

Sir Rohin Knox-Johnston, who sailed round the world in the 32ft Suhaili, said: "The wind-chill factor is horrendous, so if he goes on the

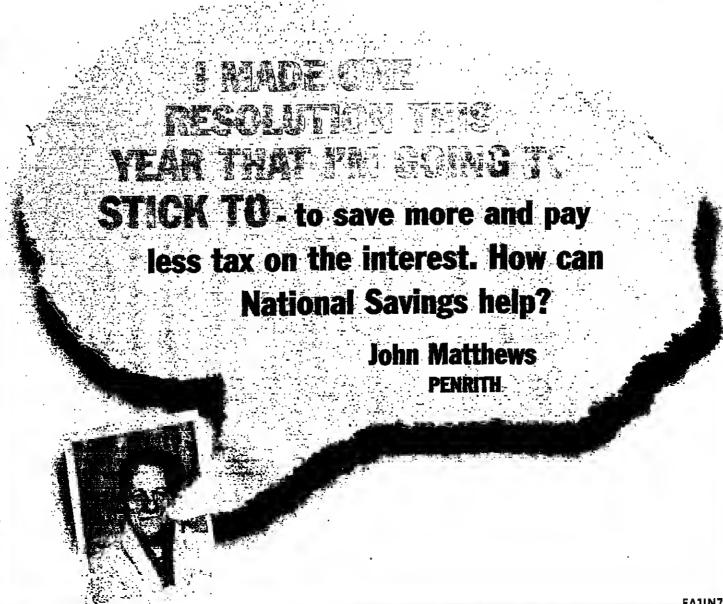
If Tony Bullimore is still on board the top of the hull he would freeze even may even be able to get dry. His food is down there with him, including his emergency rations, which would include water. As long as he has air and is not too cold, he could last a long time ... He is a tough little hugger but must now just wait another long 36 hours. We are all doing the same

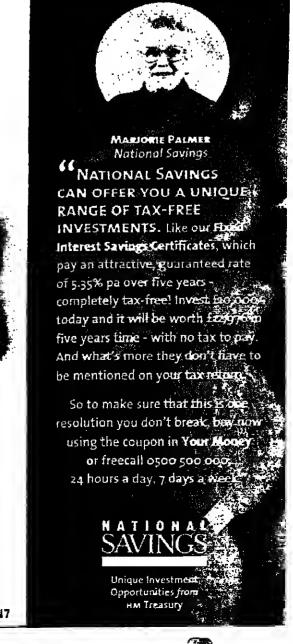
with everything crossed." The inquiry into the 1979 Fastnet race, when 24 yachts were abandoned, found seven people died atter boarding liferafts. Most of the yachts were recovered, suggesting it may have been safer to stay on board. James Stevens, national coach of the Royal Yachting Association. said: There is a great temptation to get out when the boat is rolling, with things crashing around your head. But you are usually safer in the boat if it's still affoat. A vacht is a better liferaft than an inflatable."

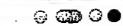
In the yacht, however, there is a greater risk from lack of air or being trapped by changing water levels or moving debris.



INVESTMENTS







Tory election campaign reveals art of aggressive begging

The snew flakes were swirling an and me and a bitter wind was lifting the flaps of my Nicole Furth overcoat, so I quickly stepped over the freezing beggar roausing briefly to give him a photocopy of Tony Blair's interries, in the Big Issue) and into the festive warmth of a crowded Conservative Central Office,

We were all there - the big cheese political editors with their pempous voices, the spiky columnists with their sceptical expressions, the young BBC tyros with their "gosh, isn't this



around the aisles on their knees like modern Toulouse-Lautrecs. the Tory spin-doctors beadily watching us watching them, a triplet of Central Office Samanthas discussing sex and politics, and the Prime Minister - we were all there to ... Well, what were we there for?

We were there because, in the words of the old First World War song, we were there. My fantasy, that Mr Major had

nouncing a snap election, was soon disabused.

This was, they told us, the first of regular series of such press conferences which would be held "before, during and after the next election" so there could be no misunderstanding betwixt PM and press corps on the vital matters of state. This was, of course, complete balls. Mr Major has had the best part of six-and-a- half years to dis-

istic establishment. That he has done so within weeks of a general election suggests a more hrute imperative than a sudden desire to be properly understood. It is because (goes the theory) the more we see of good of John and the less of Howard. Bottomley et al, the more likewe are to say, "you know, it

isn't so bad after all". Major is that he is promising mean that a Tory fifth term will

fascinating" fidgety body-language, the photographers and camera operators shuffling assembly into existence for the purpose of an around the size on their language. isn's promising anything. I mean that nothing is what he is pro-mising. Take the hereditary peers in the House of Lords. permitted to cast their votes in the second chamber of parliament by virtue of their ancestors having lent their mistresses to Charles II - "if it ain't broke. don't fix it", said Mr Major. The principle of hereditary entitlement was "no more odious than appointment en mass, hy And the great thing about Mr the Prime Minister". Does the

> Colin Brown and Sarah Helm

Tory Euro-sceptics' hopes of a change of policy on Europe before the election were dealt a hlow yesterday when John Major said he would not use any "elever dodge" to rule out Britain's entry into a single currency before polling day.

termine is the nature of the EU

in which we remain members

His remarks, which answer

and our position within it."

people preferred the Lords to the Commons, which he was in favour of reforming - by starting the new term in the spring, rather than in the autumn (even if it is broke - don't fix it).

This was so underwhelming that I began to toy with ideas for fanfares to accompany this presidential exercise. I had got as far as Hail to the Chef, followed by the Snot-Spangled Banner, when subject lurched on to Mr

Major makes

gressive begging was indeed a problem, the PM was declaring hadn't he said so first?

I looked around: there were red tear posters around the hall, and red tear handouts in the arms of the Samanthas, all carrying one simple messa give us yer vote or the Reds will steal yer dosh, rape yer granny and break up yer country. Yes indeed, Mr Major knows all about aggressive begging. In tion campaign on it.



Points of view: John Major and Brian Mawhinney (left) at the Prime Minister's US-style press conference yesterday

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Lahour sought to distance itself from Max Clifford yesterday as the subject of the latest scandal handled by the publicist served a writ on the newspaper that carried the story.

Conservative MP for Harlow sults of the Tories' new push for who was accused of a gay relationship with 18-year-old Paul Stone, said they were taking ac-tion against the News of the World. The move came hours after Labour's deputy leader. John Prescott, backed away

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family values.

At a press conference yesterday Mr Prescott said the party did not approve of the sort of "threats of scandals" promised by Mr Clifford, who is acting for Mr Stone. Mr Cliffrom his earlier claims that the ford has said he will deliver two Solicitors for Jerry Hayes, the stories were the inevitable re- or more such stories before the

election in an attempt to destroy the government. Mr Prescott added that

Labour had never sought to exploit sexual scandals of this sort, and had not done so when the Conservatives' "Back to Basics" campaign flushed out a number of revelations about their MPs. "We didn't exploit that and

we have no intention of doing so now. We will just get on with putting Labour's alternative policies," he said at a press conference to launch the opposition party's poster campaign. Mr Prescott unveiled a picture of John Major and the slogan: "Why trust him on the election after 22 tax rises?"

The Tories' own launch on Monday was overshadowed by Mr Haves' troubles and by a hackbencher's decision to work with opposition parties on constitutional reform.

Today Labour will hold its own presidential-style press conference to follow Mr Major's, held yesterday. Mr Prescott promised that Tony Blair would use the occasion to give a positive message. The Labour leader would spell out a programme including plans to make education the top priority, and to repair damage to the health service, he said.

Labour's treasury spokesman, Alastair Darling, said Labour would spell out before the general election any changes it proposed to make to the taxation system. The party is expected to announce within the next few weeks whether it plans to raise the higher rate of taxation to 50 per cent.

In response, Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, repeated a claim that Labour had made spending commitments worth £30bn and attacked its plans to introduce a minimum wage. Labour was desperate to present them-

He also gave an unequivocal commitment to staying in Europe. He said: "Of course we must stay in the European Union." No "sensible" person criteria "at the right time", the believed otherwise, he insisted, "Staying in the EU isn't in Prime Minister told the opening Tory election campaign press doubt. What we do have to de-

> nicalities to dodge around and change the policy," he said. "I am not looking for some clever dodge to change the policy.

one of the eight key electoral questions posed by The Independent yesterday, dismayed Tory Euro-sceptics whose hopes had been raised last week by Stephen Dorrell, the first Cab-

inet minister to call for a renegotiation of Britain's relationship with Europe. The Prime Minister said he The Euro-sceptics in the Cahinet, led by Michael would not use the Maastricht criteria for convergence be-

Howard. Home Secretary, are tween the economies before entry into the single currency as expected to use the next Cahia "clever dodge" for refusing to net clash with Mr Clarke to mount a last-ditch demand for Kenneth Clarke, the Chan-Britain's entry into the single cellor, is due to return to the currency in the first wave to be Cabinet within the next three or

Some ministers said jast night Britain might be ernment will judge the economic light left open by Mr Major to election.

pledge to stay in Europe

conference in London.

"I am not looking for tech-

This is a decision of immense importance which is going to affect us, whether we enter the single currency or

One Euro-sceptic said: "This means there will be no change of policy before the general

ruled out.

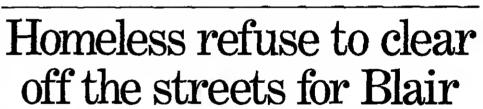
allow ministers to say in the runup to the election that it was 'unlikely" Britain would enter in the first wave.

That is unlikely to satisfy many Euro-sceptics who have already had their election addresses printed with commitments to vote against any move to enter a single currency.

Mr Major last night met Wim Kok, the Dutch Prings. Minister, to discuss Britains anxieties about the drive towards a single currency by Germany and France. Mr Major underlined British opposition to the use of the institutions to back up a stability group, which

excluded some member states. Mr Kok warned him that Europe will not allow Britain to hold up further integration in

the run-up to the election. He also attempted to discuss with Mr Major whether there were any areas of reform where ing the basis on which the Gov- that there was still a chink of make concessions ahead of the



join it.

Standing in freezing temperatures at King's Cross in north London yesterday, the homeless sent Tony Blair a clear and disapproving message: "You will

four weeks with a paper explor-

never stop us begging." The area, notorious for drug pushing and prostitution, has been targeted by police in recent weeks in an American-style crackdown on vagrants.

Although the operation is upheld as a success by local residents, beggars were angered by comments made by the Labour leader in the Big Issue, a mag-azine sold by the homeless, that they should be removed

known as zero tolerance, in which people arrested for petty crimes like graffiti. is strongly

not know how hard it is to sur-vive out there," said Shaun,

Beggars say zero tolerance regime pushes problem to

"Blair should be hung up for what he said. He has had an easy life - never going hungry or having to beg for enough money to get a scrap of food. The 43-year-old, who has

another area

lived rough for 12 years, said it would be almost impossible to find a place for all of the people who are living on the streets. Melvin Whatton, 55, and Jimmi Simms, 20, both agreed that putting the homeless out of

sight and mind could have dangerous repercussions. "If we could find another way we would, but it is the only way

we know how to survive. I do not think Blair would manage on the streets for more than a pushed the more desperate peuple into other areas.

But the chair of the King's Cross residents' action group, Harvey Bass, said that the police initiative targeted only those who committed aggravated begging, and therefore did not ef-

fect genuine homeless people.

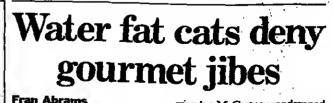
The streets are slightly safer now that a certain anti-social element has been removed. These people were causing a lot of problems for locals who were being mugged and threatened. Mr Bass said that much of the

blame rested with the Tory government which has done nothing to solve the homeless crisis.

Alex Hall, who sells the Big Issue at King's Cross, is not contident that Mr Blair has the right answer either.

The country has got itself into a state money wise, an & cannot see where Blair will set day, said Mr Whatton.

Mr Simms believed the threat homeless people off the streets."



Political Correspondent

Water "fat cats" who have been accused of feasing too heavily on the proceeds of their newly privatised companies have delighted their detractors by sponsoring series of good-food guides.

Labour could barely conceal its mirth last night as it revealed that the Water Services Association, the trade body for the water companies, has backed the four tatest offerings from Egon Ronay. The association is the main sponsor of Burs. Bistros and Cafes. published last month by Britain's foremost food critic. It is also a subsidiary sponsor of Oriental Restaurants, Just a Bite and the Hotel and Restaurants Guide.

As the association insisted that the initiative was part of a scheme aimed at encouraging restaurants to serve tap water. Labour's employment spokes-

man Ian McCartney condemned the move. "Instead of splashing out on guides to dining out the water companies should be concentrating on improving job se-curity for their staff and services to consumers. They have made the leap from the board room to

the diring room," he said. Between 1989, when the companies were privatised, and 1995 their directors had an average 383 per cent pay rise, Labour said. During the same period, the number of staff dealing with water fell from atmost 48,000 to 37,500.

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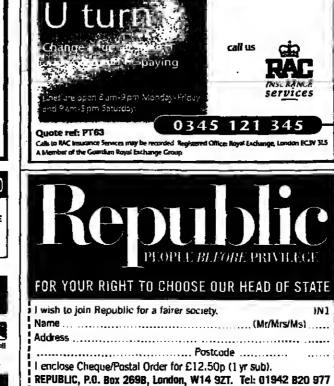
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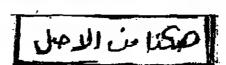
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A Water Services Association spokeswoman denied that the sponsorship indicated gourmet tendencies among its member Suade restaurants to offer cuslomers a jug of tap water rather than expensive bottled water, she Said, adding that they were offering a customer care award to considerate establishments.



Cellphones





he manual the

the body

Jazzmen sound Breath or houself with the problem in the problem was the problem to be a second to the problem of the problem blue note at Scott's farewell

Louise Jury

The sound of jazz filled the crematorium as friends and family gathered to say goodbye to the great musician and cluh owner Ronnie Scott yesterday.

The musicians Johnny Dankworth and his wife Cleo Laine, Benny Green and Sonny Rollins, the actor Spike Milligan and the humourist Denis Norden were among those who packed the service in Golders Green, north London.

A giant white and yellow rose wreath in the shape of a swophone marked the head of the funeral cortege which found it almost impossible to get through the crowds. Around 100 mourners listened to the service by loudspeaker

in the bitter cold outside. The legendary club owner, died suddenly aged 69 two weeks ago. His hody was found at his home in Chelsea, west London, last month.

But although shocked and saddened by his unexpected death, friends vesterday laughed as they remembered his sense of humour and paid tribute to the Soho club which became one of the

most famous in the world. Benny Green; a friend for 45 years, said Ronnie's death had left an "enormous hole", and recounted one of Scott's

quips. Laid flat on his back by a slipped disc at another friend's funeral, Mr Green was taken to the graveside across the back seat of a car. "It's hardly worth going home, Ronnie had said.

More emotionally, Mr Green said Ronnie was "the most fascinating man I ever befriended ... a virtuoso musician, very funny, wellread, genile, compassionate".

Sonny Rollins, one of the artists Ronnie Scott was most proud to have presented. described him as "the great saint of jazz". And Johnny Dankworth during an ad lib echo of the jazz tradition of improvisation, reminisced about when he and Ronnie lasted nine months together in a band on the Queen Mary before being sacked for playing practical jokes. There was, as yet, nune

among the up-and-coming young jazz musicians of today to match Scott for his great character, Mr Dankworth said He was applauded when he wished Peter King, Scott's husiness partner, all the best in

keeping the club going.
Prayers were asked for his surviving relatives, before the mourners left for the pilgrimage hack to central London, many clutching musical instruments. Ronnie



Scott's club was remaining closed last night for the wake.

Tribute to 'jazz saint': The hearse topped by a saxophone wreath from Scott's club partner, Peter King, arriving at a north London crematorium Photograph: Andrew Buuman

Stress warning over hiding feelings at work

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

Suppressing emotions and being nice to customers and colleagues at work can take a lot out of you, according to psy-

All organisations expect employees to "manage their emotions", be they office workers stifling anger towards fellow employees or undertakers exhibiting due solemnity at funerals. Some employers such as Macdonald's and Disney have written codes of conduct which

mean staff have to spend most of their time smiling and being inordinately accommodating to the most difficult customers.

Other companies have a less formal set of unspoken rules, hut nevertheless employees are expected to keep their boredom, anxiety and disappointment to themselves. The hasic rule is that "extremes of emotion"

should not be exhibited. "Don't show anger and don't swing from the chandeliers with delight," says Sandi Mann, a research psychologist at the Uni-

and lead to obsenteeism and high staff turnover, but people should keep "faking it", said Ms

Addressing the occupational psychology conference of the British Psychological Soci-ety in Blackpool yesterday, she said the need for employees to keep emotions to themselves was not necessarily damaging. It provided considerable benefits to most organisations. "It is a very important social skill and can enhance the corporate identity of the husiness. What

stress. Unhealthy employees can mean an unhealthy organisation. We should keep on faking it, but we should look at ways of managing the stress that

it creates." Nurses often had to display appropriate emotions. "They sometimes have a laugh with colleagues at a parient's expense, not to be cruel hut to relieve stress," she said. Such "emotion manage-

ment" was seen in everyday life. "When you are on the bus, don't

All this can be very stressful is new is that we are finding it laugh out loud because people nd lead to absenteeism and has a downside and can lead to will think you are strange," Ms Mann said.

Her findings were hased on a study of 160 people at 12 companies in Britain, from hanks and building societies to a television group. Ms Mann, who conducted her research with Robert Jones of Southwest Mis-souri State University, found that too much suppression could result in a failure to report an organisation's short-

comings to senior management. Where companies expected employees to exhibit a stiff up-

per lip, expression of personal feelings could he seen as a sign of weakness and add to stress.

The researchers urged man-agement to recognise the prohlem and maximise the benefits of emotion management while minimising psychological costs. Companies should allow workers "downtime" when they are allowed to express their feelings. ■ Sometimes a "good heavy hollocking" of an employee was much more effective than a formal disciplinary procedure, a psychologist believes.

However, such an informal rep-

has the respect of the worker. Derek Rollinson of the University of Huddersfield, said: "A bollocking does work in a numher of cases, but we can all find

cases where they don't. They can lead to resentment." Dr Rollinson said there were also considerable imperfections in formal procedures. In a study of 104 employees who had gone through a disciplinary process, he said 24 per cent had changed further 24 per cent would co-op-

rimand could only work where the person giving the telling-off they would probably commit the same offence again. He urged management to use

disciplinary procedures to "persuade" and "rehabilitate" employees rather than exact retribution. Many employees be-lieved that disciplinary hearings - which often took on a quasi-legal atmosphere - had been prejudged. They also believed that rules and regulations were applied inequitably. Sometimes. they said, rules were not taken their behaviour gladly, while a seriously by management, but

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Women can rise above unfair pay

has found, writes Barrie

As soon as women hreak through the "glass ceiling" they tend to be judged on their merits to a greater extent, according to Tirvia Melamed of Anglia Polytechnic University.

In a study of 1,200 men and women in a wide range of jobs and industries, Dr Melamed discovered that men earned on average £20,700 and women £14,700. He found that overall 20 per cent of the difference in pay was attributable to simple prejudice. For middle managers, however, the proportion rose to 40 per cent. Among junior employees, only 2 per cent was the result of direct discrimination. For women who had broken through the "glass ceiling" and

Women at the top of companies and at the very bottom suffer less direct discrimination over pay than their female colleagues in middle management, a study and 15 per cent of the difference was caused by prejudice. "If you manage to progress through to this level you are judged more on your abilities," Dr Melamed said.

Women also, however, suffered from indirect discriminanon where employers sought personal qualities which were normally associated to a greater extent with men. Addressing the conference, Dr Melamed said that from the

late 1970s the relative wages of men and women in full-time jobs were on a "slowly conver-gent path". This process seemed to have been set in motion by the Equal Pay Act which came into force in 1976, but the move to equality was not yet finished. Recent figures suggested that

women's salaries were about 1970 women earned only 62 per cent of men's wages, today become senior managers and top executives, hetween 1t per cent differential.

Heads revolt over pensions

Education Editor

Headteachers yesterday encould bring teacher training to a standstill in protest at back on early retirement.

training contracts after early for health reasons. 1 Scotember.

to foot most of the hill. The aim is to reduce the costs of early remate that 17,000 teachers are falls foul of the new rules. rushing to take early retirement

are potentially devastating. Older teachers wishing to retire will he forced to remain in the profession ... ill-health and the nounced a campaign which cost of supply cover is likely to

But Cheryl Gillan, a schools government proposals to cut minister, said any disruption of teacher training would be irre-Leaders of the National sponsible. We do not expect Association of Head Teachers premature retirement to end ... said they were advising their there will still be plenty of members not to sign teacher scope for teachers to retire

"However, only one in five Ministers are proposing to cut teachers remains until the age hack the number of teachers of 60 and we simply do not betaking early retirement by lieve that the remaining four out changing the pension rules so of five are incapable of teachthat either schools or local au- ing effectively until they are 60." thorities, not the Treasury, have Two teachers who took early retirement at Christmas have been told to return to work this tirement. Teaching unions esti-term amid fears their departure

The two, both in their fifties, before the new rules come into have been summoned back to force in April.

David Hart, the NAHT's Wright Rohinson High School, in Gorton, Manchester only general secretary, said: "The weeks after accepting leaving consequences for schools of presents and farewells from the Government's proposals pupils and staff.

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Second Cherge	9.25%	10.1%
Mortgages no langer sold	Per Annum	APR
Homa Loan Rata	7.25%	7.5%
Home Improvement Loan Rate	9.25%	9.5%
Loans sanctioned before 26/4/89		
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£100,000+	5.37	4.29	5.75	4.60
£50,000+	4.89	3.91	5.25	4.20
£25,000+	4.65	3.72	5.00	4.00
£10,000+	4.17	3.33	4.35	3.48
£5.000÷	3.69	2.95	4.00	3.20

Exchequar	Monthly I	nterest	Annual	Interest							
30 Day Notice	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %							
£100.000+	5.13	4.10	5.50	4.40							
£50.000+	4.65	3.72	5.00	4.00							
£25,000+	4.41	3.52	4.75	3.80							
£10.000+	3.93	3.14	4.25	3.40							
£5,000+ 3.45		2.76	3.75	3.00							
Meridian Savings		Gross?	6	Net%							
£100,000+		4.41		3.52							
£50,000+ £25,000+ £10,000+		4.17 3.93 3.69		3.33 3.14 2.95							
						£2,000+		3.21		2.56 1.00	
						Up to £2,000		1.25		1.00	
Saver Plus		Gross 9	%	Net %							
£25,000+		3.72		2.97							
£10,000+		3.23		2.58							
£5,000+		3. 2 3		2.58							
£ 500+		2.74		2.19							
Up to £ 500		2.00		1.60							
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£50.000+		3.47		2.77							
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£2,000+		1.50		1.20							
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"Mortgage rates for new borrowers were effective from 23 December 1996. Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings. Not: The rate after the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings. Tax Free: Tax free means that the interest is tree of tax applied to interest on savings. All savings interest rates are quoted per annum.

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How Gucci's splendid empire turned to rag and bone

Jojo Moyes

They are the valuable horses that everyone claims to own, and no-one apparently wants to take responsibility for. And as the tangled foud over the multi-milnew twist vesterday, it was the RSPCA who were paying.

"It's costing us £200 a day to feed those horses," said a spokeswoman for the Horsham branch, who rescued them. "It's money we can really ill afford."

The 100-odd Arabians of the late Paolo Gucci's Horsham estate are the only undisputed victims of a tale where nearly everyone is claiming to be hard done by. Since the fashion guru's death in October 1995, his mistress, former wife and various creditors have all clamoured for their share of a fortune which apparently comprises anything from £10m in debt to £26m of assets.

According to official re-ceivers, KPMG, the three parties claiming ownership of the horses, one of the estate's biggest assets, are Penny Armstrong, Gucci's 27-year-old mistress, by whom he had two children; Jenny Gucci, his former wife and mother of his daughter, and a company in

Yet when the RSPCA said its investigators were considering prosecuting the owner of the orses, nearly all of which were discovered in various stages of malnutrition six days ago, the ciamour went strangely silent.

Before he died, Gucci claimed to have transferred ownership of the horses to Ms Armstrong, in a move that his former wife believed was, like his declared bankruptcy, an attempt to cheat her out of alimony.

In this week's edition of Hello! magazine, Miss Armstrong, a former stable girl, gives a four-page interview in which she talks extensively of her "string" of Arab horses.

On the issue of ownership,

peatedly claimed financial difficulties, is quoted as saying: "1 was on legal aid to defend my claim of them ... the bankruptcy trustee has been claiming they were Paolo's horses and that they should all be sold off to pay lion pound Gucci estate took a off legal bills. But as far as I'm

concerned, they're mine." KPMG, court-appointed re-ceivers of the estate, said yesterday that ownership of the horses, along with everything else, was still in dispute. But responsibility for the welfare of the horses, they were keen to stress, was another matter.

*Miss Armstrong undertook to look after the livestock ... we put a vet in on a twice-a-month basis to count the horses because they are assets and to check on their condition. It's up to the vet or Miss Armstrong to let us know if there are any problems. We weren't aware of any until last week.

Miss Armstrong had been allowed to sell horses to raise money for feed, and he added that KPMG would have been happy to provide financial assistance to "safeguard" the welfare of their "assets".

She has not asked for funds to assist with money. She could have approached us at any time. We were horrified to find out the condition of the animals.7 A source close to Miss Armstrong, who has been advised

not to comment, denied this was

the case and said it had been

well known she had needed

"These are valuable animals.

money for the horses' keep. Leonard Spielberg, the New-York based lawyer for Jenny Gucci said he was concerned for the horses in so far as they formed part of the assets. He described the claims made by the Luxembourg company as "phoney" and was equally dis-

missive of Miss Armstrong. "Penny Armstrong ... got promotion from stablegirl to mistress, and provided him with a couple of illegitimate kids. I don't see how that gives her ownership of anything.



Gas fires MOT to reduce death toll

Expanding student population at risk from faulty appliances

The rising death-toll from carbon monoxide poisoning could lead to laws requiring all gas fires to have MOT-style safety certificates. Nigel Griffiths, the Labour consumer affairs spokesman, said the plan was part of a review of gas safety procedures planned by the party if it wins the election.

The expanding student population and pressure on private rented accommodation have cootributed to a marked increase in deaths from the

odourless and tasteless gas. The Carbon Monoxide and Gas Safety Society (CO-Gas) said 63 people died from CO poisoning last year, including 36 from faulty gas heaters, an increase of 24 per cent over 1995. The deaths have led to a suc-cession of investigations by po-lice and the Health and Safety Executive into how the gas fires were installed and maintained.

Sonja Hyams, 18, a student at Keele University, died in her digs in Stoke-on-Trent in November and four other 19-yearold students who shared the house were taken to hospital suffering from gas poisoning.

Last month two men were arrested in connection with Miss Hyams's death and released on police hail.

In a separate case coming to court this month, the HSE is hringing a prosecution against two Staffordshire landlords who rented a terraced house to Robert Dunn, 22, who was found dead from CO poisoning in his bedroom in November

The HSE alleges that the landlords contravened gas safety regulations by failing to carry out safety checks on his gas

Also this month, three men are due to appear in court in Suffolk charged with the manslaughter of Paul Foster, 19, who was found dead from CO poisoning in the bedroom of his Ipswich flat in February.

The prosecution followed an investigation by Suffolk police. Suffolk Fire Service, the HSE

and Ipswich Borough Council. January is usually the worst month for CO deaths, and campaigners are concerned that a sidered, so that all gas continued lack of public awareness of the risks is adding to the nual inspection."

toll. Last month an Oxford inquest heard that Karen Weise. 25, a nurse, had sought hospital treatment after complaining of nausea and palpitations.

She was sent home and she and her boyfriend, Michael Wood, 30, died the following

day in their bed.

They were poisoned by gas because a spell of extremely cold weather had brought on a down-draught in the chimney and exacerbated the effects of a faulty boiler.

The HSE has stepped up enforcement activity against land-lords and gas fitters who breach safety rules. Last year the number of notices served on landlords and fitters for gas safety failings rose from 59 to 165. Among those prosecuted was

the London borough of Cam-den, which was fined £44,000 by Clerkenwell magistrates in No-vember after failing to give annual services to tenants' gas fires and other safety failings. Bob Clapham, head of en-

forcement at the HSE, said 33 unregistered gas installers were also prosecuted last year. Stephanie Trotter, president

of CO-Gas, said that a full register of qualified individuals who fit gas fires should be drawn up immediately and those that are prosecuted should be struck off. Since 1991 all gas fitters have

been required by law to be join the Basingstoke-based Council of Registered Gas Installers (CORGI).

Last year CORGI passed de-tails of 500 unregistered fitters to the HSE for possible prose-

Helen Atkinson, a spokeswoman, said: "If you are having gas work carried out please ensure the fitters are registered with CORGL"

which obliges landlords properly to maintain gas fires an provide tenants with a safety certificate, makes no requirement of people living in private homes, where most gas poisoning deaths occur.

Mr Griffiths said. "It is quite shocking that so many of our young people are dying like this. I think an MOT on gas equipment should be seriously conequipment should have an an-

THE BIGGEST MEDICAL COMPLAINT FOR PEOPLE OVER 50 IS

HOSPITAL **WAITING** LISTS

Disputed assets: The RSPCA is caring for horses at the

Horsham estate of Gucci (pictured right, with ex-wife, Jenny), as creditors demand their share Photograph; Rex



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Businessmen make a date with fortune

Steve Boggan

Two British computer experts hope to become the world's first "Millenniumaires" by register-ing four American cities and the number 2000 as trade marks.

Martyn Emery and his part-ner, Mike Moss, have already set up companies in the Uoited States called New York 2000 Inc, Dallas 2000 Inc, Chicago 2000 Inc and Las Vegas 2000 Inc. Within weeks, they will learn from the US authorities whether an application giving them sole rights to the expression "New York 2000" has been successful. If so, the men stand to earn a cut from merchandising sales estimated in hundreds of millions of dollars.

"It's a bit of a punt, but if it works we could be the first Millenniumaires," said Mr Emery, 35. "If we get sole rights to "New looking at San Francisco and

The men got the idea for their project while lecturing on the dangers inherent in computer systems when their internal caleodars return to 00 at the end of this decade - the so-called Millennium bug. They set up a British company, Cor-poration 2000 Ltd, and then established Corporation 2000 Inc and New York 2000 Inc last July. "We were surprised no-one

Seattle too."

had registered 'New York 2000', so we looked around the country and found that it was wide open," said Mr Emery. "We made our application for a trademark last October, so we hope to find out the result very sooo. There have been oo objections so far." piece
The application is currently said

York 2000", then we'll apply to being considered by the Contrademark the others and we're missioner for Trademarks in Arlington, Virginia, but the husinessmen have already secured a meeting with New York City officials.

"If we get the trademark, we would rather team up with someone who has the resources to defend it ... We'd rather have a small percentage of a large amount than 100 per cent of nothing."

or's office in New York displayed the kind of equanimity unlikely to be found in London if an American had bought the rights to the capital's name:

"Our business development corporation will have to look at the implications of this carefully ... but on the face of it, the concept is a good old fashioned piece of free enterprise," she

Salmon hooked by woman's lure

For years anglers have argued over the best fly for catching a salmon. Those made from the feathers of rare birds or wool from the nether regions of a ram have been among traditional favourites. Now comes the most hizarre yet: a fly made from a woman's pubic hair.

The fly, and the appareotly good results it has brought, were reported in a recent issue of the Field when its inventor sought suggestions for a name. The result has been some of the most heated correspondence in the magazine's illustrious 200-

"I haveo't had a postbag like since we ran a piece about updating the Book of Common Prayer," said the editor,

Jooathan Young.
The fly was devised by a Field reader who had failed for 11 years to catch a salmon from Argyll's river Shiel. "I ned an outrageously colourful fly which featured a tuft of my wife s pubic hair, the theory being that pheromones might work on the old cock salmon as they do on

me," he wrote. "Sure enough, on my 11th cast I hooked and landed a beautiful 4lh fish. My problem is not so much that I have run out of raw materials for my fly-tying. a pubic wig).

hut what to call this superb new

Many possible names have already been taken by ensting thes such as Hairy Mary, Woolly Bugger, Mountain Damsel Dog Nobbler, Missionary, Appenser, fuzzy Wuzzy, Red Battler and Hot Car Bot Full Traders and Hot Cat. Bot Field readers have rallied to the challenge

The issue out tomorrow tures the editor's favourit Grub, But Mr Young sauthe had been swamped with ideas. including Pussy Allure, Liniar Rise, Angler's Tail, Fit Lizzy and Fanny's Fancy erudite reader suggested Magic Merkin (merkin bang

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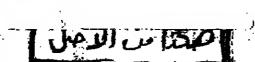
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Crime Correspondent

Aids and HIV sufferers who are discriminated against at work are refusing to take their employers to court because of fears of being identified and failures in the legal system, a study suggests.

There is also evidence that some lawyers are reluctant to represent people with Aids. Early results from a study of

attitudes and treatment of Aids sufferers reveals widespread discrimination that includes reports of sufferers being sacked and hounded out of their jobs hecause of their condition.

The problems of discrimination at work received worldwide publicity through the film Philadelphia, which starred Tom Hanks as a successful gay lawyer who was sacked after his boss discovered he had Aids. He then had difficulty in obtaining a lawyer to fight the case in court

- which he eventually won.

The new information comes from a European Commissionfunded study of how people with Aids and HIV are being treated by the legal system in England and Wales, Italy, Portugal, Germany, Norway, France and the Netherlands.

and legal aid lawyers are only just being sent out. In England and Wales 10,000 legal aid firms Aids. They are being asked their experiences of the legal system

discrimination. Professor Avrom Sherr of the Institute of Advance Legal Studies, a UK co-ordinator of the survey, said: "Some of the reports are hearthreaking. We have had people whose lives have been devastated because of their treatment at work and the

reaction from colleagues they thought were trusted friends." He added that early evidence shows that one of the major reasons men and women who are discriminated against fail to take legal action is the fear of being named in court. There is

oo right to anonymity.

Warnings given by health care professionals also appear to reinforce this concern of being stigmatised and made unemployable in future.

Potential litigants are also put off by the length of time a case

questionnaires to Aids sufferers ticularly if they believe they have not long to live. They believe a legal hattle will effect their

mental and physical health." He added: "Even Aids rights are being contacted and thousands of people with HIV or activists seem reluctant to go to court. The study will consider what aspects of the law and legal services are preventing more when dealing with eases of people coming forward.

There have been some reports of lawyers discriminating against people with Aids. Professor Sherr concluded: Very few cases of discrimination are going to the courts. There must be many that are actionable. We want to encourage more people to come forward to obtain legal services and to end discrimination against Aids and HIV sufferers.



Rock solid: The sculptor Tony Cragg with one of his large-scale works to be exhibited at three venues in London this month, including the Lisson Gallery and Art 97 - the London Contemporary Art Fair. The show will focus on 15 works never before seen in Britain, with photographs, videos and new drawings. It opens at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, east London, from 10 January until 9 March

Chemist wins fight for cheap medicine

Glenda Cooper

A chemist from South Wales has woo a technical victory in his fight to dispense medicines for less than the National Health Service prescription charge.

Allan Sharpe, a pharmacist in Newbridge, Gweot, has had a fine lifted of £550 which was imposed oo bim in 1995 for breaching NHS rules. He has advised customers over the past 10 years to buy medicine privately when it is cheaper

Mr Sharpe was fined by the NHS-run Mid-Glamorgan Family Services Authority for being in breach of his contract. He appealed to William Hague, the Secretary of State for Wales. who decided the case against him was flawed because Gwent Family Services Authority, who referred the case to Mid-Glamorgan, had waited too long nefore acting on a complaint. But a spokesman for the

Welsh Office said yesterday that Mr Sharpe was still subject to the law if he carried on dispensing prescriptions at a cheaper rate. Yesterday Mr Sharpe said: "I

am not going to stop saving my patients money; I am not prepared to play at heing a tax collector for the Governmeot. I hope this will prompt the Government and the NHS to sort out

.. the prescription system." The National Pharmaceutical Association, which represents 10,000 independent pharma-cies throughout the UK, said the result of the appeal was "disappointing" as the legal position had not been clarified.

"Mr Sharpe is focusing public attention oo the grossly unfair and the NPA is fully in sympathy with what he has been seeking

"However, private dispensing is not the solution ... What is needed is a full review of the prescription charge system."

DAILY POEM

My Father's Handkerchiefs

By Susan Wicks

In a controlled explosion of dry grief, fragile as skelctons. ng in my hand like my daughter's origami monsters, their worn muslin stiff with mucus, they let me prise them open. With a sound like tearing the crumbs of snot flick out at me my father's latest creations dead. Each week I wash them, press warmth into the yielding creases and bring them back - so many neat flat squares for him to snort his thick grief into. Each week I find them again, wreckage of crippled beasts and flowers flutter or creep or scuttle into my machine as I try to name them: butterfty. tortoise, crane, crab, lily, cygnet, crane, crane, crane, crane.

Today's poem from the TS Eliot Prize shortlist comes from Susan Wicks's third collection, The Clever Daughter (Faber). Her acclaimed memoir, Driving My Father, was published last year, while Faber puhlishes her first novel, The Key, later this month.

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Spymaster steps from shadow into courtroom limelight

The "man without a face" made a triumphant entry into the hunker, turning his cheek towards the cameras and acknowledging well-wishers with a haughty nod. Markus Wolf, onetime superspy, strutted in the lime-light with a familiarity belying his long life in the dark: in the shadowy world of espionage.

For most of the three decades that he ran East Germany's foreign intelligence service, the HVA, his Western adversaries could not even put a face to the name. Now his image fills est court in the land, which ruled that

television screens, his punditry commands exorbitant fees, a book entitled Secrets of Russian Cuisine pays the bills, and the last Cold warrior is about to hit stardom with a seminal work on the Cold War.

All that stands in the way of minting fame into fortune is a little misunderstanding with the German judiciary, who keep trying to throw him into jail. And so Mr Wolf returned yesterday to the windowless Düsseldorf courtroom where he was once convicted of treason, but this time as a common criminal.

Then - he was absolved by the high-

East Germans who had spied on West Germany had committed no crime in their own country. Now - the prosecution is citing the East German penal code in an attempt to convict him on charges of abduction, coercion, and causing grievous bodily harm.

'My accusers have revealed no more than methods that have belonged to all secret services of all ages," Mr Wolf said, staring at his prosecutors. "Neither the constitution, nor the law of the country I served were violated." If he had ordered the kidnapping and brutalisation of innocents, then his actions had been no worse than those of the other side.

In response to the charge that he had ordered the imprisonment of a former Gestapo employee, Mr Wolf took a dig at the Western inclination to turn a hlind eye: "Contrary to the West German secret services, the uncovering of former Nazi henchmen was one of the legitimate tasks of the HVA," he declared.

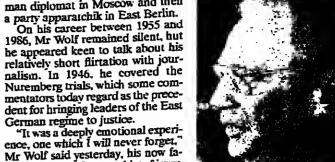
It was dedication to root out "Hitler-fascism" and to defend "socialism" that had driven him, he said. As if to justify his actions, Mr Wolf dwelt at length on his colourful life, his famed memory deserting him only when he was asked about the date of his third marriage.

His parents, atheist Jews who joined the Communist Party in 1928, fled Germany in 1933 after the burning of the Reichstag Markus - or "Misha" man diplomat in Moscow and then a party apparatchik in East Berlin. On his career between 1955 and 1986, Mr Wolf remained silent, but the Reichstag. Markus - or "Misha" - grew up in Moscow, and was educated at a school for German communists where teachers and pupils would often disappear in a Stalinist purge. Misha studied to be an aircraft engineer, but after the outbreak of war he was ordered to enrol in the Comintern's school for promising leaders of the future satellite states.

He returned to Germany shortly after the surrender, working as a propagandist for the Russian "liberators" entually, he became an East Gerhe appeared keen to talk about his relatively short flirtation with journalism. In 1946, he covered the Nuremberg trials, which some com-mentators today regard as the prece-

German regime to justice. "It was a deeply emotional experi-ence, one which I will never forget," Mr Wolf said yesterday, his now famous face betraying not a hint of irony. The trial is expected to last until

the end of March.



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Markus Wolf: Criminal trial

Officers accused over 'white legion'

Former Mitterand aides 'helped recruit Zaire mercenary force'

Mary Dejevsky Michael Ashworth London

Senior French ex-officers have been recruiting a "white legion" of mercenaries to fight in war-torn Zaire, it was claimed yesterday in a Paris newspaper.

Le Monde alleged that former soldiers, including two senior Elysée Palace officers, have spent the past three months recruiting a multinational force of mercenaries. The paper said that a dozen or more former French officers were already in northern Zaire, along with a white legion of 300-400 men. The including French, British, Belgians, South Africans and Angolans. Several hundred more troops were due to arrive in the

The alleged purpose of the force was to support the Zairean army in pushing hack the rebel forces that currently occupy regions in the north and east of the country. The two named officers, Colonel Alain Le Carro and a former gendarme, Robert Montoya, both served at the Elysée during the presidency of François Mitterrand, who died a year ago today. Colonel Le Carro was head of presidential security until 1994.

The French authorities, including the Elysée Palace itself and the Defence Ministry, at once denied all knowledge of the mercenary operation, still less any involvement. The recruitment exercise, however said to have been conducted in the name of the Zaire government - appears to have run parallel with France's abortive diplomatic efforts through the autumn to persuade other European countries and the United States to contribute to a multinational humanitarian

force for Zaire. The force was to have hrought relief to thousands of Rwandan refugees helieved to be stranded in the east of the country. But there were suspicions, even in some circles in France, that the humanitarian mission could easily transform itself, with a little help from Paris, into a military mission shoring up the French-backed regime of Zaire's President Mohum. This was one reason why other countries were so reluctant to take part and why the

idea was eventually abandoned. The Le Monde claim that a force of white mercenaries is gathering in northern Zaire of-

fers one explanation for the insistent reports from Zairean rebel leaders on Monday that French forces had arrived near the northern town of Kisangani. Those reports, relayed from rebel headquarters in the eastern town of Goma, said the 1,000-strong force, supported by mercenaries, had transport aircraft, tanks and helicopters at its disposal.

The reports were furiously denied by officials in Paris. The French Defence Ministry said that France was "aware" of "mercenary forces operating in Africa", but would not elab-The South-African hased

military advisory company, Executive Outcomes, denied yesterday that it was involved. "Executive Outcomes has no personnel in Zaire and has never had any personnel in Zaîre," it said in a press release.

The chairman of Executive Outcomes Eeben Barlow maintained that he had not been approached hy the Zairean government.

Mr Barlow maintains that he has an undertaking with the Augolan government, for which EO has worked, and his other "clients" that he will not at any stage in the present or the future work for or support the opposition." The Zairean government has had close ties to Angola's rehel Unita move-

Mr Barlow said that: "if we started to work for the Zairean government against the wishes of the Angolan government then we would lose credibility and prohably existing contracts we have with other govern-

The timing of the Le Monde revelations, which bear all the hallmarks of an official leak. suggests that they were intended as a direct response to Monday's allegations that French forces were operating in northern Zaire. The message is: "We know there are French troops there, but they have nothing to do with France or French pol-

The allegations came as the Zaire rebels tried to reassure foreign mining companies not to pull out of the area of the country which they control. Rehel leader Laurent Kabila said: "The military pressure in Kisangani and Kalemic has made these companies wary ... but we want them to come and the soil is ours. We will sell our mines to whoever can offer



Omar Ali Saifudden mosque in Brunei, in a rehearsal for the sultanate's National Day next month Photograph: AFP

significant shorts

Mystery man France aids raises Peru hostage fears inquiry

Fears of a violent end to the Peruvian hostage drama rose yesterday after an armed man was seen slipping towards the building in the dark and two gunshots were heard.

Police and military officers denied that the man, who appeared to be wearing combat gear and carrying an automatic rifle, was one of

their commandos. If not, he could have been one of the 20 Tupac Amaru guerrillas, holding 74 hostages in the Japanese ambassador's residence. slipping back in. The only other possibility was that a Tupac Amaru guerrilla from outside had slipped through police lines to join his comrades, security experts said. Phil Davison - Lima

Bosnian plane hijack foiled

A knife-wielding Bosnian refugee facing deportation hijacked an Austrian Airlines plane but was disarmed by Berlin police commandos who secretly boarded the aircraft and pushed him out

of an open door.
Police said the 39-year-old Bosnian man, whose permit to live in Germany was set to expire next Tuesday, fell about seven metres to the Tarmac at Berlin's Tegel airport, where he was None of the passengers or crew was hurt. Reuter - Berlin

Euthanasia condemned

The Vatican condemned the second death under Australia's world-first euthanasia law as a revolt against God and urged opponents to campaign harder against the threatened "contagion" of assisted

"To decide one's own death and ohtain it, even with recourse to the law and medical assistance, is an act of revolt against God, author of life, and a crime against life," moral theologian Gino Concetti wrote in the newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Reuter - Rome

Belgian bribe

A French court has handed Belgian police papers relating to allegations that French aerospace group Dassault paid hribes to win a military contract.

Belgian police are investigating claims that Dassault paid 600m Belgian francs (£11m) in kickbacks to Belgian political parties to secure a 1989 contract to fit air defence systems to the fighter jets. Reuter - Brussels

Holocaust writer lauded

American historian Daniel Goldhagen was honoured by the Magazine for German and International Politics in Bonn for his book Hitler's Willing Executioners. The magazine said it picked Mr Goldhagen for its 1997 Democracy Award hecause his book had given the German public fresh impetus to discuss the Holocaust. The book argued that most Germans were willing accomplices of Hitler because of a deep-seated tradition of anti-Semitism. Reuter - Bonn

'No evidence' on Nazi gold

The Swiss National Bank denied allegations in a 1946-US intelligence document that the Swiss had encouraged Nazi Germany to restamp looted gold bars to hide their origin. The hank said extensive research had found no evidence to back the allegations. Reuter -

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Unkindest cut

A German whose testicles were cut off during an abortive robbery said the attacker was an unknown woman. Holger Kronenthal said he was still in great pain from the attack on 11 December after a couple forced their way into his flat and demanded money. Enraged when he said he had only 50 marks (£20), they ordered him to drop his trousers and the woman pulled out a knife and castrated him. Reuter - Bonn

Prescott paves Labour's way to Hong Kong

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

Aware that the fallout from Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty looms as one of the most pressing issues to confront an incoming Labour government, John Prescon, the party's deputy leader, is to visit China and Hong Kong next week. Mr Prescott's visit follows an

intensive trip to Hong Kong and

the shadow foreign secretary, which was dominated by questions of British-nationality rights for Hong Kong residents. Mr Cook pledged that a future Lahour government would go further than the present administration in offering the right of settlement in Britain to ethnic minorities whose status was threatened by China.

Mr Prescott is likely to find

China last May by Rohin Cook, that this remains a live issue. It will also feature in talks that the Governor, Chris Patten, is to have with ministers in London later in the week. However, the deputy Labour leader, who has his eye on

heading a new Department of Economic Affairs, appears more anxious to talk about trade issues. In Chinn he will be specifically dealing with trading ties to his constituency in Hull.

In Hong Kong there is an acute awareness that Mr Major's government might not last until 30 June when British rule ends. This adds to the lameduck feeling surrounding Mr Patten's governorship. Interest in Labour's position

on Hong Kong matters is therefore reasonably high but tempered by the far greater interest in the attitude of the new sovereign power.

Mr Prescott has yet to firm up his schedule of meetings, but, as well as meeting the usual array of local politicians, he is hoping to see Tung Chee-hwa, the territory's new head of government who has held only one meeting with a foreign official since his selection last month. Mr Prescott knows Mr Tung, a shipping magnate, from his days representing the National Union of Seamen.

China has sought to break the long-standing hipartisan policy on Hong Kong and may take the opportunity of the Prescott visit to urge an incoming Labour government to adopt what it sees as a more cooperative stance towards transitional matters affecting the

If so, Mr Prescott can expect 10 be received at very senior levels of the Chinese government.

Toymaker swallows pride and scraps the doll with a bite

David Usborne New York

The parents of America can sleep easy again. There are no more nuclear warheads pointing at their children from Russia, violent crime is down in almost every major city - and the Cahbage Patch Snacktime doll has been

recalled The menace was short-lived hut scary. Beckoning from toy-shop shelves since last summer, the pudgy little dollies with a ravenous appetite became one of last Christmas' hottest items. Mattel, the maker of the toy. watched with joy as sales topped the

half-a-million mark. Equipped with guppy-like me-chanical mouths, the dolls are meant chips and biscuits (also supplied by

But it was just after Christmas that the dolls began to reveal their true mission - to snare and digest the hair of

their innocent little owners. With each day, another horror story would drop. The dolls were setting upon little girls everywhere, sucking in their locks and, in some cases,

ripping them out at the roots.
With no instructions from Mattel on how the doll operated, desperate parents were at a loss as to how to stop

the chewing.

After insisting that the dolls were safe. Mattel now has finally relented and agreed to stop the production line for good. All of the dolls that are still unsold in the shops (and there may to munch on pieces of plastic food like not be many) will be recalled; parents to a child's hair."

who bought one can claim a \$40 (£23) refund from the company.

To be fair, the number of incidents

reached only the tens. But Mattel knows had publicity when it sees it. "Our job is 10 bring joy into chil-dren's lives," said a repentant Jill Barad of Mattel. "If any of our products are causing concerns, we are committed to responding in a responsible

There has been no fireside hroadcast by the President, but the government is evidently relieved.

child's room and find a doll clinging

"These toys were certainly dis-maying to parents and kids," Ann Brown of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission said yesterday. "You don't want to come into a



Snack attack: The Cabbage Patch doll

Cyclists given a sporting chance by the Taliban

Tim Johnston

Kahul - The ruling Islamic Taliban sought yesterday to sports - by organising a hicycle race and display of martial arts in the Afghan capital.

Fourteen cyclists tonk part in the three-mile race between the airport and the Ariana Hotel. The starting line was in front of a tank that guards the approach to the airport.

Most of the cycles were of Soviet vintage, serving as humhle load carriers in between stints as racing machines. With an escort of traffic police riding motorbikes, the cyclists set off

down the cracked tarmac. The policemen cleared the route of carts and pedestrians as the Kahul, the team had trained in the control of the care of the cyclists swung through a roundabout and on to the final

With a cry of "Allah-u-Akhar" (God is great), Amanullah, Afghanistan's premier cyclist and an employee of the Ministry of National Security, won the race, and with it a banered nickel-plated cup. A citation, written in felt-tipped pen on cardboard, was taped to the

hase of the trophy.

Almost all Kahul's sports facilities have been looted and destroyed in the fighting, and Amanullah, who like many Afghans uses only one name, doors on stationary bicycles.
"We need everything cycles.

clothes shoes everything," he said after his victory. He added: "My message to the outside world is that they should invite us to take part in international races, and help us with equipment."

After the race there was a demonstration of wrestling, boxing and other martial arts in the disused Isticial High School Motmayn, one of the young pugilists said: Normally we would do this on mais, but we do not have any, so they can only show the technical moves.

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Rich vein

: INDEPENDENT

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Protest anger has given way to charm offensive, writes Andrew Gumbel

Belgrade

Belgrade -What's a self-respecting their goodies by the side of the road riot policeman in full intimidatory regalia supposed to say when a beguiling young woman student asks him to dance in the middle of an anti-government demonstration? Say yes? Smash her on the head? Or just stand there looking awkward and smile?

There has been an almost surreal atmosphere in Belgrade these past few weeks, in which charm, good humour and a rich vein of satirical inventiveness have proved more powerful than any number of batons, water-cannon, riot shields and teargas canisters.

The students and opposition party supporters pressing the government to acknowledge its defeat in last November's municipal elections are not just political agitators earoestly fighting for their rights. They are having the time of their lives, and every night is an ear-splittingly lively party.

First there were the firecrackers and the multi-coloured party whistles imported from Bulgaria by some cuterprising racketeer. Then came the loudspeakers blasting wild gypsy music into the bitterly cold winter night, transforming the capital's icy streets into a slithery giant dance floor. And then there have been the merciless wisecracks at the expense of the

President Slobodan Milosevic anbian people, so the demonstrators shouted: "Slobo, we love you too." The speaker of the Sethian parliament, Dragan Tomic, lashed out at the words reprinted on T-shirts and banners that read: "Yes, we are feebleminded, under-aged, manipulated and pro-Fascist!"

When the riot police started pouring into the capital from all around the country, they too became the butt of the demonstrators' ridicule: "Hey Mr Policeman, isn't your wife lonely while you're away on business? Who do you think she's with right now while you're staring at us?"

More recently, the demonstrators have tried to make friends with the police, offering them chocotates and sweets and inviting them to read their leaflets. At first the police remained impassive, but in the past few days they have told the students to leave so they can pick them up as they go

On Monday night, which was the Serbian Orthodox Christmas Eve, the police disappeared from the streets altogether as more than 100,000 people walked and danced across town for a late-evening Mass at St Sava Cathedral.

It has been a remarkable display of democracy in action, without a hint of violence or resentment from any quarter. The students have analysed protest movements which date back to 1968 and have tried to avoid the mistakes of the past. They have issued a short list of minimum demands reinstatement of the election results, greater freedom in the media and the resignation of the dean of Belgrade University - rather than starting off over-optimistic and having to back-

They have kept their protests separate from those of the opposition to underline their political independence. They have refused to meet Mr Milosevic, knowing that any such meeting risks being manipulated against them in the official media. And they have kept their protests short to keep everyone fresh and enthusiastic day after day.

The opposition coalition, meanwhile, has shown an assured knack for nounced that he still loved the Ser- civil disobedience. To counter the propaganda broadcast by the state television news at 7.30 every night they have got Belgraders to "drown out" the official version of the day's events demonstrators with a string of in-sulting adjectives only to find his pots and pans, letting off fireworks and simply screaming at the top of

their lungs. Last Sunday they worked around a ban on marching down Belgrade's main boulevards by inviting their supporters to drive into the centre and

September 1987 - Slobodan Milosevic takes

May 1989 - Milosevic becomes President.

demonstrations in Belgrade with tanks.

March 1991 - Milosevic crushes opposition

June 1991-November 1995 - Wars in former

Yugoslavia. 17 November 1996 – Opposition coalition Za-

jedno (Together) defeats Milosevic's Socialists

(ex-Communists) in municipal elections in Bel-

over as Serbia's Communist leader.



Flickering hopes: An opposition supporter lights candles in the snow outside Belgrade's main Serbian Orthodox Church Photograph: Reuters

will of voters.

mutter as they peered with mock

seriousness into their bonnets. One man, asked what was wrong broken down. It has been broken for

a long, long time." New ideas include refusing to pay
utility hills and jamming the switch
If this struggle were all about crein Serbia would have
a few months ago.

grade and a dozen other Serbian cities.

opposition's election victories:

structive, violent fascists".

18 November - Dally pro-democracy street

protests begin after Socialist authorities annul

1 December - Socialists underline refusal to

compromise by denouncing opposition as "de-

24 December – First police violence against

peaceful demonstrators in Belgrade results in

then pretend to break down. "Wet ca- boards of ministries and other gov- have caved in long ago. As it is, its re- Autocrats rely on fear to bolster bles! Wet cables!" drivers would emment offices by bombarding them sponse has been a near-total silence, their position, but fear has vanished with telephone calls.

The less work these people do, the hetter it is for the country, said Zowith his car, answered: "Its soul has ran Djindjic, one of the three leaders of the opposition coalition Zajedno (Together).

One suspects that President Milosevie cannot believe what he is seeing - his authority flouted day after day with an irreverence that nobody

invective that invariably falls flat.

broken only by an occasional burst of

in Serbia would have dared show even

Life under Milosevic: The pain and the protest 27 December - Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe upholds Zajedno's election victories and urges Milosevic to respect

> 2 January 1997 - Serbian Orthodox Church breaks with Milosevic, accusing him of bringing nation to point of complete collapse 6 January - Army distances itself from Milosevic, saying it will not use force to end

their position, hut fear has vanished off the Belgrade streets like air for the 1989 downfall on ethics whooshing out of a balloon. Mr Milosevic cannot match the humour or the verve of his spirited opponents.

and that ultimately may well prove his

downfall. A hardline communist party allied with Mr Milosevic vesterday sought to hlame the opposition for a homh that exploded outside its headquarters on Monday night and said it expected further such "terrorist"

Nobody was hurt in the bomh hlast, which looked suspiciously like | tee will decide punishment. a government provocation against Serbia's pro-democracy demonstrators. Some politicians and diplomats fear it could be a sign of a violent crackdown in the offing.

Newt makes a final plea

Rupert Cornwell Washington

Speaker Newt Gingrich yesterday made a last-minute plea for support from Republican colleagues, as the House of Representatives prepared to vote on whether to give him a second term as its feader, despite his admitted breaches of Congressional ethics rules.

As the fateful moment approached, senior Republicans were outwardly confident that Mr Gingrich would prevail. Majority leader Dick Armey assured reporters: "I see no reason to doubt that he will be elected on a first ballot."

In fact, the air dripped with suspense as party managers worked frantically to limit the number of possible Republican defections and prevent either a second ballot, or worst of all, the election of the Minority leader, Dick Gephardt, the Democrat candidate and the Speaker's only challenger.
Only narrowly does the arith-

metic favour Mr Gingrich. The Republicans have 227 votes, a margin of 19 over the combined forces of the 207 Democrats and one independent, who normally votes with the Democrats, Five Republicans however have said they would oppose him, some hinting they would seek to nominate another candidate - possibly Mr Armey or even Jim Leach, the highly respected chairman of the House Banking Committee, one of the Speaker's declared

But there was oo disguising the nervousness of many Republicans at marching to the party gun before they knew the full facts of the case. Only later this week, or next, will full details of Mr Gingrich's transgressions - said to involve the illegal use of tax-exempt funds to finance a college course which he taught - he made availahle.

Either way, it seems, the Democrats come out ahead. If the Speaker does go down, they would have scored a huge symcharges of their own Speaker. Jim Wright, after a campaign by a pareknuckled Republican backbencher from Georgia named Newt Gingrich.

Whatever the outcome, the House Ethics Comminee, evenly divided hetween Republicans and Democrats, will hold a closed meeting on the affair. Then the full report on Mr Gingrich's transgressions will be made public, and the commit-

Most probably, he will be reprimanded - a modesi sanction that permits him to remain Speaker - but a rehuke which Democrats will not let him

Russian oil spill spells disaster for Japan's coast

Mikuni (Reuters) - Fishing vil-lages in north-west Japan feared economic and environmental catastrophe yesterday as oil from a sunken Russian tanker coated beaches and threatened prized shellfish beds.

Oil slicks have hit the shore along a 60-mile stretch from Kyoto Prefecture to Fukui Prefecture, whose rocky coast is dotted with fish farms, fishing ports and tourist resorts, a Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) spokesman said.

"Oil has come ashore at more than seven places, from Kyogamisaki in Kyoto to Oshima lighthouse in Fukui Prefecture, where the bow of the tanker has drifted ashore," the

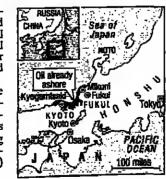
spokesman said. At a beach at Mikuni, about 210 miles north-west of Tokyo, villagers grimaced at the pungent odour of heavy oil as they surveyed the wreck of the ship that has caused Japan's second

worst oil spill. "This is where I swim in summer, and my mother dives said he feared long-term damfor abalone." said 12-year-old Koji Ogiwara. "At this time of the year, she would normally be looking for seaweed. It's all de-

we are going to do.

In Mikuni alone, a fishing town of 20,000 people, the oil spill threatened to wipe out the entire port's annual fishing income of 30m yen (£260,000).

The oil slicks also threaten a stretch of rocky Sea of Japan coastline on the picturesque Noto Peninsula, east of Fukui.



The popular tourist area is famous for shrimp, crabs and "Ama", women who make their livings diving for shellfish and rare seaweed without the aid of

have dogged efforts to stop the oil spill since the 13,157-tonne Russian-registered Nakhodka hroke in two during storms in the Sea of Japan on Thursday.

fectural Fisheries Organisation, age to the local industry. "If the oil reaches rocky parts

of the coast, ecosystems could stroyed and I don't know what ters the food chain via the seagrowth of organisms all the way up the chain," he said. The MSA spokesman said

that high seas had prevented an oil dispersal operation using de-



air tanks or snorkels. Intermittent snow and cold

ed by France). Kenji Ondo, of the Fukui Pre-

cock's favourite actress.

nism, Prince Albert told Le Fitergent chemicals.
We still have no idea of how garo that he believed absolute much oil escaped from the vesmonarchies were uniquely

Chill wind blows in paradise as world's oldest monarchy celebrates 700 years

John Lichfield Paris

With his receding hairline and gold-rimmed spectacles, he might be the chief executive of a small, Californian software company. He believes he has the answer to the corrosive shorttermism of the politics of the late 20th century (or any other century). The answer is monarchy.

He is half-American, entering

middle-age and he has spent his entire life in the family husiness.

Hardly surprising. His family husiness is the longest, continuously installed monarchy on the planet (admittedly ruling an area marginally larger than a golf course). Nor is it just a ceremonial monarchy, like the Windsors. It is one of the few monarchies with real power (admittedly, with a Prime Min-ister and Police Chief appoint-

His name is Albert Grimaldi. He is the 38-year-old camera-shy hrother of Caroline and Stephanie, son of Prince Rainier of Monaco and of Alfred Hitch-

The Grimaldi family business - to which Albert is heir apparent - celebrates its 700th anniversary today. The celcbrations in the principality will last all year but begin today with a Te Deum, the unveiling of a family statue and a multi-media extravaganza on the sca-front. Far from being an anachro-

can conduct "authentic, longterm policies". It is true that, during his 47 years on the throne, Albert's father, Prince Rainier, has cannily adjusted his tiny fiefdom to the demands of a post-war world dominated not by old money but by international business and entertainment. He fought Gener-

al de Gaulle to a beneficial draw on Monaco's tax and business status in 1962. He oversaw huge, high-rise property development. He introduced new Rainier inherited a playground and tax-haven for the rich and idle, and re-shaped it as a play-ground and tax-haven for

Family fortunes; Prince Rainiar with heir-apparent Prince Albert, and (right) the late Grace Kelly Photographs: AP

world. Only they, he suggested, yachting and tourism. It de- co may have thrived on the can conduct "authentic, long- pends on off-shore banking and change but his own family, arproperty speculation. Its most cel- guably, paid, and continues to ebrated expatriate residents are no longer tax-avoiding, British and French aristocrats. They are tax-avoiding, media-attracting Stephanic and Caroline, were

royal family every discretion

cultural and sporting activities. men (especially from Italy and the Middle East).

Most famously of all, Rainier personally led the way into the media-sal wrated late 20th centhe rich and energetic. Monaco tury by r rying Grace Kelly, a placed to thrive in the modern no longer depends on casinos, movie p. 258, in 1956. Mona-play-boy, Daniel Ducruet, in

pay, the price. After the death of Princess Grace in a car-crash in 1982, their daughters.

The people have forgiven their

sports and movie stars and tax swallowed up by the world of

and media-avoiding business- nouveau-riche, exhaustively paparazzi-chronicled hedonism. Caroline's second husband, Stefano Casiraghi, was killed in a speed-boat accident in 1990. Stephanie, after a brief career as a pop star, n'arried the French

1992. She divorced last year following his brief liaison with a former Miss Nude Belgium. The people of Monaco, unlike

the people of Britain, have forgiven their royal family every discretion. There is no serious threat to the Grimaldis' continuing reign, despite the almost complete absence of democracy. Eighteen people are elected to a National Council but the Prince retains absolute power, advised by a four-person cabinet. headed by a senior French civil servant. There are few authentic Monégasquese in any case -6,617 out of a population of 29,972, which contains 121 oth-

er disenfranchised nationalities. Lately, however, there have been chillier winds blowing through the 4km by 1km par- the national bob-sleigh team.

btcd. The government, which runs most things, is now running something unheard of - a budget deficit. The state-controlled Society des Bains de Mers, op-crating the casinos, hotels and restaurants, is in the red for the third year running. Some residents, especially the more commercially savvy types attracted by Rainier, are wondering aloud whether more should have been done to diversify from purely finance and property-based activities to newer industries such as information technology and telecommunications. There are even the first mutterings about the democrane unaccountability of the hureaucrade and roval élite.

Democratic rebellion is most unlikely. Few in Monaco are on their uppers. There are three times more members of the principality's state orchestra (90) than registered unemployed (30). But Prince Albert, for all his talk of royal long-term planning, will not receive an entirely problem and risk-free inheritance.

Which begs the two questions which have exercised residents of the principality for many years now. When if ever, will Albert marry? And when, if ever, will Prince Rainier give way for his serious-minded son? In his interview with Figaro, Albert pointed out that abdication is not dreamed of in the Monégasque constitution. But he also drew attention to his own advancing years by announcing his forthcoming retirement from

Although Burton Lane wrote superb melodies for films and shows for over 50 years, he is one of those composers who is revered within the profession but whose name is less familiar with the public than it deserves to be. His work for the stage includes one of the acknowledged masterpieces of musical theatre, Finian's Rainbow, while his film work includes such hits as "Everything I Have is Yours",
"I Hear Music", "How About
You?" and "Too Late Now".

Born Burton Levy in 1912 in New York, he studied classical piano as a child and at the age of 11 started composing, hlendmg classical forms with modern rhythms. At 14 he was heard by an agent of theatrical producers, the Shuberts, who commissioned him to write songs for a revue, Greenwich Village Follies. When the revue was cancelled due to the illness of its star James Barton (Lanc would have been the only 14-year-old composer with a score on Broadway), Lane declined to follow his father in his real estate business and found work as a pianist at the publisher Remick's, where he became a protégé of George Gershwin, who both encouraged him and gave him advice. (One of Lane's later hits, "Says My Heart", imitates the broken descending scale of an earlier Gershwin tune, "Tell Me More".) He also became friends with

the lyricist Howard Dietz, and his first two Broadway songs were interpolations in the Dietz-Schwartz revue Three's a Crowd (1930). The following year, with the lyricist Harold Adamson, he wrote "Say the Word" for The Little Show and the complete score for Earl Carroll Vanities, With the Depression, he turned to arrang-ing and accompanying café singers, and with Adamson had two modest song successes in 1933, "Tony's Wife" and "Look

The MGM writer Allen Rivkin heard Lane playing a melody at a party and was impressed enough to recommend him to his studio. The song was "Everything I Have 1s Yours" (lyrics by Adamson), which was immediately interpolated into the Joan Crawford-Clark Gable musical Dancing Lady (1933). Further films to feature Lane/ Adamson melodies included Bottoms Up (1934), Strictly Dynamite (1934), Kid Millions (1934), and Folies Bergère (1935).

Signed by Paramount in 1937, he persuaded them to put the young lyricist Frank Loesser under contract. "I heard a couple of songs Loesser had written with Manning Sherwin," said Lane, "and I was howled over by Frank's lyrics."

ments Like This" and "Howdja Like To Love Me?", plus "Says My Heart" for Cocoanut Grove (1938), "The Lady's in Love With Yoo" for Some Like It Hot (1939), and "I Hear Music" for Dancing on a Dime (1941). Lane returned to Broadway to collaborate with the lyricist/libret-

tist E.Y. Harburg on the score for Hold on to Your Hats (1940), which was Al Jolson's final Broadway show. (It closed pre-maturely when Jolson decided to return to the sun of Florida.) Back at MGM. Lane wrote

(with lyrics by Ralph Freed) one of his greatest hits, "How About You?", introduced by Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland in Babes on Broadway (1941), a wistful hallad, "Poor You" (lyrics by Harburg), sung by a young Frank Sinatra in Ship Ahoy! (1942), and for the screen version of *Dubarry was a Lady* (1943) a catchily syncopaled comedy number (lyrics by Ralph Freed) called "Madame, 1 Love Your Crepe Suzettes".

the Busby Berkeley musicals, collaborated with Lane oo the Broadway score for Laffing Room Only (1944) starring the comedy team Olsen and Johnson. The Shuberts, who were producing the show, were feuding with Ascap, the songwriters' union, and refused to have the songs broadcast, but three years later Lane persuaded the singer Dorothy Shay to sing the show's hillbilly tune, "Feudin' and Fussin' " on Bing Crosby's ra-dio show and it became an enormous hit. In 1947 Lane had the higgest

Al Dubin, a former lyricist on

success of his career with the score for Finian's Rainbow. E.Y. Harburg, the most socially conscious of all songwriters, stated: "I had long wanted to do a show about a Southern racialist who is turned black, and I'd always loved the idea about a lep-recham with a pot of gold." The merging of the two ideas pro-duced a show which deals with race relations in the context of an escapist musical comedy. ("My family have always hated immigrants," says the Southern senator. "Ever since we came to this country.") Harburg's long-

time collaborator Harold Arlen had turned the project down as "too political", and Lane battled with Harburg over some of the content, persuading him to take out a lynching sequence, and ensuring that the politics were tempered with humour and compassion as well as a host of gorgeous melodies.

The biggest immediate hit song was "How Are Things in Glocca-Morra?", hut others to achieve popularity included "If This Isn't Love", the captivating waltz for the leprechaun,
"When I'm Not Near the Giri
I Love" and "Old Devil Moon",
an unusually constructed ballad. The gavotte, "Something Sort of Grandish", the lilting "Look to the Rainbow" and the madrigal "When the Idle Poor Become the Idle Rich" are other numbers with enchanting melodies to match Harburg's sharp lyrics.

Lane then collaborated for the first time with Alan Jay Lerner on the score for MGM's Royal Wedding (1951), which included a lovely ballad, "Too Late Now", which was nominated for an Oscar, and the song with the longest title in song his-tory, "How Could You Believe Me When I Said I Loved You When You Know I've Been a Liar All My Life?" "We thought the film was getting too cosy," said Lane, "and needed something ricky-ticky." He later expressed dissatisfaction with some of Lerner's works. "I thought some of my tunes deserved better, especially 'Every Night At Seven and I Left My Hat in Haiti', which was contrived." One of the melodies, used for Fred Astaire's celehrated dance on the walls and ceilings, had originally been heard in Kid Millions as "1 Want to Be a Minstrel Man". With

Lerner's new lyrics, it became "You're All the World to Me". A 1953 television musical, Junior Miss, had songs by Lane and Dorothy Fields, and in the same year Lane collaborated with his longtime friend 1ra Gershwin on the film Give a Girl a Break, which, despite some good songs ("Applause, Applause", "In Our United State")





and fine dancing by the Champions, Boh Fosse and Debhie Reynolds, was given little fanfare by its studio.

Lane started working with Harburg again on a screen musical based on Huckleberry Finn to star Gene Kelly, Danny Kaye and William Warfield, but when Harburg was blacklisted by Hollywood for his left-wing leanings, Alan Jay Lerner was brought in as lyricist. Though they completed a full score, the film was never made. Later, when Lerner wrote a musical about extra-sensory perception called I Picked a Daisy, his initial composer was Richard Rodgers, but when the two men terminated their partnership Lane stepped in and composed a fine score for a flawed show, now titled On a Clear Day You Can See Forever (1965).

Lane blamed the problems on the show's book and Lerner's unwillingness to cut material. When it became apparent to Lane during the try-out tour Song" and "One More Walk that the show would not succeed, he allegedly organised the

cause Lane fell a beiler singer would preserve the songs more viahly on the eventual original cast alhum. The songs were indeed highly praised though the show was not. The title tune immediately became a standard, hut the huoyant "SS Bernard Cohn", torchy "What Did I Have I Don't Have", liking "Hurry, It's Lovely Up Here" and bouncy "Wait Till We're 65"

are among other delights in one

of the last great "traditional"

Broadway scores. Despite complaining that working with the drug-addicted Lerner resulted in "the worst two years of my life", he worked with the lyricist again on what was to be Lane's last Broadway show, Carmelina (1979), starring Georgia Brown and hased on the Gina Lollohrigida film Buona Sera, Mrs Campbell. It lasted only two weeks, but boasted some good melodies, notably two wistfully nostalgic num-

bers, "Ii's Time for a Love

Around the Garden". Lane and Loesser wrote a beguiling score for the Bob Hope/
Martha Raye musical College
Martha Raye musical College
Swing (1938), including "Mo
The following year, Lane composer born firing of the leading man, Louis firing of the leading man, Louis and Harburg teamed one last time to write a ballad, "Where daughter); die playing the part hadly, but be
The following year, Lane composer born and Harburg teamed one last time to write a ballad, "Where daughter); die playing the part hadly, but be
The following year, Lane composer born and Harburg teamed one last time to write a ballad, "Where daughter); die playing the part hadly, but be-The following year, Lane

recorded by Maxine Sullivan and Michael Feinstein on their respective album tributes to Lane. In 1982 Lane and Sammy Cahn wrote songs for a poorly executed animation feature, Heidi's Song. But Finian's Rainbow is the score for which Lane will always

be most remembered and it was 10 have an effect on his writing 100. "I used to think in terms of having hit songs in a show," he said, "but this libretto was so strong I decided not to try to be commercial, but 10 write what 1 thought the characters should sing - and that's when your best writing comes through. I've never tried to write a hit song since, and I've had more hits since then than I ever had hefore." Harburg said of Lane, "He was very critical of himself, always changing things and wanting to get things better but that's true of any good writer, isn't it?"

Burton Levy (Burton Lane), composer: born New York 2 February 1912; twice married (one daughter); died New York 5



David Hartigan

David Hartigan was a member of the keyhoard staff of Chetham's School of Music. in Manchester, for over 25 years and his musical gifts flourished most strongly through his con-tact with pupils. It is likely that he could have developed a career as a piano soloist; however he found more fulfilment in the music room and the drawing room than on the concert-hall platform.

Born in Stockport in 1946. the son of an amateur violinist father, Hartigan first discovered his love of music while at Stockport School. Moving to the Royal Manchester College of Music, he gained inspiration from the pianists Derek Wyndham and Ryszard Bakst, who detected a highly unusual musical talent heginning to emerge. Hartigan always had broad horizons, and enjoyed the company of a wide circle of friends. He went on to study with Walter Klein in Salzburg and this not only introduced him to different styles of musicmaking hu1 also opened his eyes to literature and culture.

As a leacher at Chetham's from 1971 he was a mentor, encouraging his pupils to achieve both technical excellence and depth of meaning, while playing as soloists or as chamber musicians. His hallmark was his respect and admiration for the discoveries in meaning which pupils made for themselves. Through experience he learned the art of when to intervene and correct and when to stand back and allow talent to flourish in its own individual direction. Never possessive of his sludents, he sought opportunities for them to study with other great teachers and was constantly in search of funds 10 enable young people to travel abroad, for masterclasses and concerts.

Hartigan himself apprecialed all that was best in the performance of music. He rarely missed a production at Covent Garden. He was excited at the possibilities which now exist in Manchester with the opening of the Bridgewater Hall and was keen to encourage all musicians to attend recitals and concerts. He would willingly travel with them and many pupils will remember his company and his conversations on these

Hartigan's great skills as a teacher were put to best effect with those pupils whom many found difficult to teach. He often championed the cause of the young talented musicians who were least certain of their own talents or the direction of their lives. His work was inspired by a passionate caring that talent should not he wasted.

has been set up at Chetham's for "The David Hartigan Memorial Piano Award", primarily designed to assist young planists in their education.

Peter F. Hullah

With his broad, robust build, tall frame and rugged good looks one might have guessed that David Hartigan was a handsome Northern hill farmer rather than a sensitive and inspiring music teacher, writes Derek Granger. But Hartigan had always vigorously engaged in any number of demanding athletic pursuits. As an exceptionally powerful swimmer he had taken part in several marathon swims for charity. He was also a keen energetic cyclist, a strong long-distance swimmer and a regular weightlifter and bodybuilder.

What his friends will chiefly recall, however, is the abound-

prominent role in Lynch's no-

torious television series Twin

Peaks, in which he memorably

essayed a lumber-mill foreman,

fish-loving Pete Martell, married

10 actress Piper Laurie, who was

body of the murdered Laura

Palmer. The director and actor

ing and underlating good mature that was the true mark of his personality and which not only made him the most painstaking, caring and patient of leachers but also the most warm-hearted, convivial and companionable of friends.

Hartigan was totally without prelension and always remained close to his Northern roots. Although tempted from time to time by offers of work elsewhere he remained decply loyal to Chetham's famous school of music, which he loved, and he chose to remain in Manchester, making that city the centre of his life and work. Manchester duly rewarded his gregarious ap-peute for social life by providing him with a broad circle of friends. At home in the leafy Stockport suburb of Heaton Moor (where he was also an en-thusiastic and knowledgeahle gardener) he generously en-tertained his friends and relished cooking dinner for his guests drawn from a wide range of Manchester's professional and artistic worlds and often playing the piano for them afterwards.

But the instantly appealing qualities of Hartigan's character, a natural openness and good-heartedness comhined with a ready wit and distinct social flair, gave him also a natural entrée into a wider world



of cosmopolitan artistic and Bohemian life. He had been the guest of Somerset Maugham at his villa. La Mauresque, near Cap Ferrat, where he become a close friend of Maugham's secretary, Alan Searle. He had stayed in Hollywood with the great American-Hungarian film-maker George Cukor, veteran director of Greta Garbo and Katharine Hepburn. In Salzburg, where he was a frequent visitor for the annual Mozart festival, he had been entertained by the great Philadelphian art collector Henry McIlhenny. On the weekend before his death Hartigan had Following his death a fund been staying in Oxfordshire with his old friend Sir Hardy Amies, where he had helped to arrange the Christmas concert at the village church of Langford. (In 1989 Hartigan had also arranged the London concert in celebration of Amies's 80th

hirthday.) In 1973 Hartigan provided the music for a Granada Television drama Poor Girl, adapted from a ghost story by the novelist Elizabeth Taylor, He had chosen the incidental music from the piano compositions of Schumann, one of his favourite composers, which he performed himself with his own delicate and masterly touch.

David Hurtigan, pianist and mu-sic teacher: born 15 July 1946; teacher of piano, Chetham's School of Music 1971-96, assistant head of keyboard 1996; dicd Oakmere, Cheshire 31 December 1996.

Norman Florence

Ever since Hay-on-Wye gained the sohriquet "The Town of Books" hibliophiles from all over the world have flocked to its 30-odd bookshops stuffed with millions of books covering every subject from archaeology to zymurgy. In recent years its fame bas expanded greatly thanks to the annual Festival of Literature, which attracts a growing and dedicated following to Hay to listen to authors spotted by Emlyn Williams, ranging from Salman Rushdie and William Trevor to Edwina Currie and Roy Hattersley.

The festival's success rests Dramatic Art in London and he squarely with its founder, Norman Florence. This year sees its 10th anniversary. In many ways it will be regarded as a tribute to Florence who, with his wife the actress Rhoda Lewis, and their son Peter, created the glorious jamboree in 1988.

Norman Florence was horn in South Africa. While at the University of Cape Town he was who was then touring the world. Williams sponsored him for a place at the Central School of

arrived in Britain in 1954. After graduating he appeared in numerous films and television plays, often starring as a "baddie" in series like The Saint, Z Cars, The Avengers and The Man From UNCLE. He also directed an award-winning film of Wole Soyinka's The Swamp Dwellers which won acclaim at the 1966 Berlin Film Festival.

In the 1970s he focused his energetic talents on theatre management, working alongside Sam Wanamaker on the Globe project. He managed theatres in Birmingham, Northampton and Ipswich before coming to Wales as the administrator of the ground-breaking hilingual theatre company Theatr Yr Ymylon. With his son he then set up Projects Company, commissioning and producing world tours of shows including The Pity of War, Portrait of the Artist as sion of Christopher Fry's The

Boy with a Cart. Norman Florence's great amhition was to create something Powys 17 December 1996.

would he recognised worldwide. That the Hay Festival has appeared on national television in 16 countries and draws thousands of adherents from across the globe is testimony to the fulfilment of that objective.

of excellence at home which

Norman Samuel Fredericksen a Young Dog and a musical ver- Florence, actor and festival organiser: born Cape Town 3 January 1933; married 1960 Rhoda Lewis (one son); died Bronllys,

Tony Heath

Ambition: Florence in 1962

David Lynch has described

actor, content to stay at home,

not even watching television,

Jack Nance



Lynch's Eraserhead, 1977 Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

Few images in contemporary cinema resonate as does the startling poster for the director David Lynch's equally startling feature début, the 1977 film Eraserhead. Back-lit, hair resembling an uncontrollable lavatory brush inadvertently merged with a black-and-white aurora borealis, one eye staring upwards (naturally), the other eye shaded, the pupil alone harely visible, this was the face of Jack Nance, playing Lynch's creation Henry Spencer, the truly disturbed father of a monstrous, ill-formed mutated baby. a child who wreaks terrible, awesome revenge on Henry for causing it to be born.

A synopsis could never do justice to Lynch's deeply deranged surreal fantasy, which is rooted in a doubly disturbing

narrative cine-reality by two things: the remarkable sound editing of Alan Splet, and the unique performance (or, to be accurate, non-performance) of Nance, who achieved both cult status and apotheosis in this

single film alone.
Nance's role itself was not made easy by the fact that Lynch starting filming Eraser-head as a funded short for the American Film Institute, but the shooting was protracted over six years, and Lynch is on record as describing the main problem of his production as "maintaining such a singular hair-style over such a long period. It just stayed up in the air - it was so tall that the first night none of us could helieve that we could ever film something like this."

In a television interview,

Nance remembered that it was sometimes not just days, but months, and even years, between takes. Nevertheless, the resultant cohesive fantasy hecame one of the most deeply, and fundamentally, disturbing, and disturbed of all cinema, a personal exploration on being and a terrifyingly unsettling vi-sion of hirth. (And deepty influential, notably on the 1986

film Alien.) Jack Nance, Eraserhead himself, grew up in Oak Cliff, Dal-las, Texas, and studied under the famed founder of the Dallas Theater Center, Paul Baker. Nance headed for California in the 1960s and worked for a hrief while at the Pasadena Playhouse, followed by a period at the Circus theatre company in San Francisco.

just sitting, thinking in his chair, wearing his little slippers". This eccentricity endeared Nance to Lynch, himself no slouch in the eccentric stakes, and this mutuality is reflected in Nance's subsequent film work which, with few exceptions, like the low-budget shocker Ghoulies (1985) or Barfly (1987), has been exclusively in the province of Lynch, though never again did Nance play a leading rote.

Lynch cast him in his

grandiose and seriously underrated box office catastrophe Dune (1984) and again in his two prestigious features Blue Velvet (1986) and Wild At Heart (1990). Nance also played a

Dennis Hopper also cast Nance in a small role in the gang war-fare movie Colors in 1988, almost certainly as a homage 10 Lynch, to whom Hopper has referred as "the first American surrealist director".
At the very up end of 1996,
Jack Nance had a violent argu-

ment with two Hispanic men in a doughnut shop across the road from his home in South Pasadena. On 30 December a friend checked in to see how he was, and found him dead. Los

Angeles County Sheriff Sergeant Noet Lanier confirmed that Nance had hlunt force trauma to his head, indicating that one of the men had hit Nance on the head with responsible for discovering the his tist "I considered Jack one of my

best friends," said David Lynch when the news was revealed.
"I'll miss his dry absurdist humour, his stories and his friendship. I'll miss all the characters he would have played." Jack Nance's last role was for Lynch. as a garage mechanic in Lost Highway, due to be released this coming spring.

Tony Sloman

Marvin John Nance; actor: born Dallas, Texas 1943; died South Pasadena, California 30 December 1996.

Forthcoming marriages

and Miss T. A. Villiers

The engagement is announced between Sean, son of the late Mr John Wilken and of Mrs Elsie Wilken, now of Quenington. Gloucestershire, and Theresa, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Villiers, of London.

Birthdays

Mr Stuart Cameron, former chair-man, Gallaher Ltd. 73; Professor Stephen Hawking, mathematician, 55; Lord Hollenden, former chairman, I. & R. Morley, 83; Mr Andrew Hunter MP, 54; The Right Rev Edward Knapp-Fisher, Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Chich-ester, 82; Professor Sir Robert May, zoologist and ecologist, 60; Air Com-modore Joan Metcalfe, former director of RAF Nursing Services, 74; Mr Ron Moody, actor, 73; Mr Robert Parry MP, 64; Mr Kenneth Purchase MP, 58; Miss Imelda Read, MEP, 58; Miss Shirley Bassey, singer, 60; Mr Professor Brian Reddaway, eco-David Bowie, musician and actor, 50: comic consultant to the World Bank prime minister, 1885; Dennis Yates

84; Professor Charles Tomlinson, Emeritus Professor of English, Bris-tol University. 70: Miss Galina Ulanova, former prima ballerina, 87; Sir Geoffrey Whalen, deputy chair-man of Peugeor Talbot, 61; Profes-sor Alan Wilson, Vice-Chancellor, Levik University. 50: Leeds University, 58.

Anniversaries Births: Alfred Russel Wallace, naturalist, 1823; William Wilkie Collins, novelist, 1824; Frank Nelson Dou-bleday, publisher and editor, 1862; John Joseph Curtin, Australian

Wheatley, novelist, 1897; Solomon West Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike, Sri Lankan prime minister, 1899; Elvis Presley, rock singer, 1935, Deaths: Galileo Galilei, astronomer, 1642; Sir John Dalrymple, first Earl of Stair, politician and lawyer, 1707; John Baskerville, printer and typog-rapher, 1775; Eli Whitney, invenior and perfector of the conon gin. 1825; Paul Verlaine, poet, 1895; Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, first Baroo Badeo-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, 1941; Chou En-lai, Chinese leader, 1976; Richard Tauber, tenor, 1948; Geor-

gi Maksimilianovich Malenkov, for-

mer Soviet leader, 1988. On this day: Alexander I acceded to the Scottish throne, 1106; soup kitchens for the poor were opened in London, 1800; Britain occupied the Cape of Good Hope, 1806; the Americans defeated the British at the Banle of New Orleans, 1815; the Severn Railway Tunnel was opened, 1886; Chequers Court was occupied by its first prime minister tenant, David Lloyd-George, 1921; Ibn Saud was proclaimed King of the Hejaz, a name which he changed to Saudi Arabia, 1926; sugar, bacon and butter were rationed in Britain, 1940; in New

York, seveo floors of the Empire

State Building caught lire, 1963. To-day is the Feast Day of St Adrian of Canterbury, St Apollinaris the Apol-ogist, St Erhard, St Gudula, St Lucian of Beauvais, St Pegn, St Sev-erinus of Noricum Repense, St Sev-erinus of Septempeda, St Thorlinn and St Wulain.

Lectures

National Gallery: Hugh Belsey, "Collectors (i): a British collector in Florence: George, 3rd Earl Cowper,

Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "The Proper Study of Mankind: transfor-

mations of the human figure (ii)", ; King's College London, London WC2: Dr Catherine Osborne, "Sui-cide: is there a Christian response?",

Werner van Zoggel

A Service of Celebration for the life of Werner van Zoggel, of Seligen-stadt, Germany, and employee of Reuters for 27 years in Frankfurt, Geneva and London, will be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London EC4, on Tuesday 14 January, at

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princes Royal, President, Royal Yacht and Association, visits the London International Boat Show, Earl's Court Exhibition Centre London SW5; and as Patron, Vietna Supranal attends a fund-raising dinner at Grosseno House Hotel, London Wi.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Harne Guarda, 11am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTES, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171.293 2011 (24-hour abnovering machine 0171-293 2012) or fixed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a (ine (VAT extra).

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Major can pick up the Tory torch of reform and undersating the sal makes and unnerviating grant many of he was the true mark of he sonality and which he y made him the may refer to caring and name staking, caring and palker cachers but also the may m-hearted, countill as change in the voting system is ipanionable of friend, unnecessary, it is the Prime Minintigan was totally with ister's conversion yesterday to the ension and aways remaine cause of reform of the House of Lords. ic to his Northern made if Who needs a multi-party parliament ugh tempted from time to elected hy proportional representa-2 by offers of work election tion when flexible politicians like John Major and Tony Blair already effecremained deeply local to tham's famous their se which he lowed and he se to remain in Manchese tively operate coalition politics within a two-party system? No sooner had the ding that city the central life and work. Manching junior partner in Mr Major's coalition, the One Nation Tory Party, threatened te for social life his proad bim with a broad circle a to withdraw its support from his government and open talks with Mr Blair's Olive Branch Alliance, than the Prime nds. At home in he lead skeport suburt in Heavy Minister said be was prepared to consider "sensible reforms of the Lords". of (where he was also and Mr. Blair's main objection to prostastic and knowledged decided in the garrytoph of ained his film is odd a d cooking dinner for a

portional representation is that it tends to give disproportionate power to small parties, because they are more likely to bold the balance of power. But that is in effect what happened this week. First Hugh Dykes, the European affairs spokesman of the One Nationers, asked to join the Labour-Liheral Democrat talks on bow to make the Lords more democratic. Then George Walden, the One Nationer's education spokesman, yesterday said he thought the hereditary principle in the Upper House was "totally and completely indefensible"

Now, Mr Major is in the strange position of declaring that constitutional change is one of the three key election

f there is one argument that a issues that divides the parties, while conceding the strength of the case for change in one important area. But be magnanimous: welcome his acceptance of unspecified "sensible" reforms; even welcome his use of the cliche, "If it ain't broke don't fix it," since it is obvious to anyone with eyes and ears that the House of Lords is broke and needs fixing. Mr Major's feeble defence of the hereditary principle - that it was better than prime ministerial appoint-

ment - cannot hold.

The importance of the Dykes-Walden Declaration, of course, goes much further than this. It confirms that the One Nationers of Mr Major's coalition have decided that if it puts the survival of his government first, it will he steamrollered by its senior partner, the Thatcherite Party. And it asserts that One Nation Toriés are not single-issue pro-Europeans. Mr Dykes is, along with Sir Edward Heath, the most forceful pro-European Tory MP. And it was Mr Walden who threatened to bring down the Government if Mr Major escalated the "heef war" of nonco-operation last summer.

The important lesson to draw from these recent events is that One Nation Toryism is a broad-based and distinct ideology with a long and venerable hisory. Anyone who suggests that people like Hugh Dykes are somehow hehaving in an un-Tory fashion, or even that they should leave the Conservative



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

Party, has little sense of history. These One Nationers may be a minority now, but they are the inheritors of a proud tradition of Tory constitutional reform.

Several heavyweight Tories, including Chris Patten and Stephen Dorrell, once supported electoral reform. Others, including Malcolm Rifkind and Michael Forsyth, once supported limited self-rule for Scotland. Yesterday, Mr Major insisted that these were dangerous causes, but the Dykes has been breached and the Prime Minister's attempt to save some prized possessions from the flood looks increasingly doomed. As well as the

House of Lords, Mr Dykes wants to talk to Labour and the Liberal Democrats about electoral reform for the European Parliament. He did not mention devolution but, as shadow Lord Chancellor Lord Irvine pointed out last year, you can hardly argue for "subsidiarity" in Europe and deny it within the UK.

It has long been our argument that democratic reforms are connected that one thing leads to another. This is the great tension in Conservative thought: the fear that if you pull at one apparently straggly thread, the whole tapestry will unravel. Intelligent Conservatives have always believed, how-bilising. On the contrary, we take the ever, that evolutionary reform is needed to head off pressure for destructive and escalating change from building up. We have not reached that point yet; and, as Mr Major pointed out yesterday, "we are not in a position of having a blanket opposition to constitutional change". He has indeed made changes to the workings of the Commons and set up the Grand Committee roadshow of MPs that now tours Scotland and Wales. But these are far too little, too late.

It is now time for the historic divide in the Conservative coalition between the "bedgers" and the (last) "ditchers" lo re-open. In 1910, the Tory party split over the power of the Lords to block finance hills. The Tory former prime minister Arthur Balfour described the 1911 Parliament Act, which removed this power, as "the destruction of [the] constitution of this country by revolutionary means". He was wrong, as today Mr Major is wrong to defend the voting rights of bereditary peers, wrong to stop the devolution of power to Scotland, Wales and London and wrong to stand in the way of the people's decision in a referendum on the system for electing the Commons. There could indeed be dramatic changes ahead in the nature and form of democracy in this country and throughout Europe. Most of them are long overdue, and we do not believe that they will be desta-

evolutionary Tory view that the stability of the past 18 years has been unbalanced, and that a rebalancing of our constitution - at all levels - will produce better but still stable government.

And, if we should end up with a more pluralistic parliament, it would be no had thing for a separate Onc Nation Party, perhaps led by Kenneth Clarke, to play a role in our government under its own proud colours, rather than in a state of permanent cringe.

All their own silly fault?

To what extent should we pay to rescue people who court danger for the thrill of it? This recurrent theme of the relationship between the individual and the state is posed again by capsized round-the-world vachtspersons and Richard Branson in his halloon. Mountaineers and mountain-rescue volunteers object to the idea that the former should pay the latter to scrape them off the slopes. And it would seem wrong to undermine the collectivist principle of the coastguard service and voluntary principle of lifeboars. But it is fair to ask whether expensive and commercialised ways of getting your kicks on sea, land and air should he subsidised.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Stop snubbing Germany's goodwill

Hitler whose grandmother died in the Holocaust, I am the last to romanticise the Germans. But to compare Kohl in any respect to Hitler, and by implication his predecessors Schmidt, Brandt and Adenauer, is monstrous (letter and

majority of their electors, been so eager to surrender German sovereignty? So that, in a politically united Europe, Germany will never again be a threat to its neighbours. Even that golden calf, the German mark, will be reluctantly sacrificed

There is no nation in Europe with the vast majority of its young generation as anti-nationalist as so large and economically strong remains as an independent state, for a European confederation.

cathedral destroyed by German bombs. Hardly was the war over, when civic links were forged with Kiel - similarly destroyed - and later with Dresden, a place of terrible devastation. Young Germans came here to help rehuild. They and their children take it for granted that we, like of us, they are willing to be

British. But for how much longer? They are offended and baffled by our jingoism, nourished by many of our politicians and stoked up by much of the press. Canon PAUL OESTREICHER

Sir. To Nigel Jones (letter, 4 January) it seems "the absurdity of attempting to yoke together Scots and Sicilians. Swedes and Spaniards is self-evident." Not so in my field of science, theoretical physics. One nation is 100 small a unit. We yoke ourselves together across Europe for the sake of excellence. Twenty-six groups in 10 countries are currently collaborating on a research project on atomistic computer simulation of complex processes in solids, designed to help European industry keep competitive. Such collaborations have contributed to keeping Europe ahead of the USA

for young scientists to conduct highquality research instead of being trapped in a multitude of mediocre backwaters. By and large Europe is chaotic, with an infinite number of barriers to effective collaboration. The collaboration I belong to is a real achievement, but it is just a tiny drop in an ocean of missed

opportunities. The EU is not to be equated with Europe, true, but in my experience Brussels is the major source of belp in spite of its alienating arrogance and bumbling waste. In comparison, the European Science Foundation (covering all Europe) is much more efficient and userfriendly, but is almost pathetic in

the tiny resources it is given. Finally, at stake is the future peace of Europe. It is obvious that the bonds between peoples are not strong enough to hold us together in the face of any severe tension. Professor VOLKER HEINE Cavendish Laboratory

Sir: As a child of refugees from

picture caption, 4 January).

Why have they, and the vast

today's Germans. If a nation that is then it could indeed one day become the cause of conflict. That is one, but not the only good reason,

I live in a city and work in a them, are Europeans. Unlike many outvoted in Europe's institutions. Most of them are instinctively pro-

Coventry Cathedral

can seriously believe for a moment that there is ... a continuing German drive to dominate Europe" except in the addled minds of English Europhobes. Yes, Germany does tend to dominate Europe at present, but this is inevitable for two reasons. First, the most populous state and largest economy will naturally tend to dominate, no matter what ambitions that state does or does not bave; and second, its domination has been happening partly by default, as Europhobic attitudes and policies in this island increasingly lead British views to be and Japan in my particular field. ignored and influence to be Also at stake are opportunities

minimised across the Channel. Which leads directly to Mr Jones's most serious delusion. Yes indeed. English foreign policy has been to resist European hegemony, at least since the time of Elizabeth I. However, today this means adopting exactly the opposite of the Europhobic position. Withdrawal of Britain from Europe would guarantee the very European hegemony against England that

England has rightly feared. I am sure, as a Scot, that there would be another result of British withdrawal from Europe - the break up of the United Kingdom. Scots, by and large, do not share English Europhobic attitudes. Scottish independence within the EU would soon follow. You see, Mr Jones, many Scots would rather be yoked with Sicilians than absurd bands of little-Englander Europhobes ... even if occasionally one is a renegade Scot like Teddy Taylor. JIM MANGLES Wortham, Suffolk

Sir: The idea that Britain made war Sir: Nigel Jones is seriously confused on Hitler 10 bring its influence to about both German and British attitudes towards Europe. No one who understands modern Germans hear upon the Continent ("The Euro-sceptle lie about why we fought Hitler". 2 January) will seem ridiculous in anyone who was grown-up in the 1930s.

We joined the Second World War to stop the nastiest racist dictator from taking over Europe and a great deal of the rest of the world. With help from many others, we succeeded.

At the war cemetery at La Baule, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the raid on St Nazaire, an old retired dockworker came up 10 me and asked me to "do him the honour" of going to his house and taking a glass of "Before you fellows came that

night", he said, taking my right hand in both of his, "we thought we would never be rescued from the most appalling oppression. Thank you, thank you." There were tears in his eyes.

Mine too. We all knew what that war was about. It bears no relation to what is happening in Europe today, of

course. But the idea that Britain can "maintain its influence" in Europe only by joining in deeper integration with the countries of the Continent is way off-beam too. We have no serious influence in continental Europe to start with. The majority there want us to join in and to do as we are told.

Unfortunately, if we do this we will suffer massive unemployment and severe social divisions. For that is what the economic and social

policies of the EU are already bringing about.

Sir: As a British citizen living in Belgium since 1967, I have been interested to read coverage on the potential impact of the single European currency. But why never any reference to experience obtained over almost half a century following the 1865 Convention of

According to the 1910 Baedeker guide 10 Belgium: "By the Convention of Paris of 1865, Belgium belongs to a monetary league with France, Switzerland. Italy and Greece. One franc, 100 centimes, 80 German pfennigs, 96 Austrian hellers, 48 Dutch cents, 20 American cents and 93/4 pence are all nearly equivalent ... The gold and silver coins of France and Switzerland, and the gold coins and 5fr pieces of Italy are also freely accepted [in Belgium]. Other silver coins frequently offered to the unwary visitor should be declined."

The guide goes on to say that English and French banknotes and English gold are accepted in all the principal towns, hotels and railway stations at their full value (1lb = 25 francs). However, even then the UK was

not a member of the Convention; my 1906 Baedeker guidebook to the UK reports: "Foreign money does not circulate in England, and it should always be exchanged upon arrival." ALAN REEKIE

Drink-driving figures mislead

Sir: It was disappointing to see the nation's media fall so readily into the innumeracy trap prepared for it by the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo), in heralding the 18 per cent increase in recorded instances of positive breath tests as evidence of increased drink-driving (report, 3 January; letter, 4

anuary).

Acpo asserted that it was unable to supply a figure for the total number of tests performed". It was widely known that testing would be increased this year. If one allows for the increased number of vehicles on the road this year compared with last, then if the number of tests increased by more than 10 per cent or so which is likely - the incidence of drink-driving has declined again, in line with recent trends. Clearly this is not what Acpo wanted us to

TERRY HERBERT

Shops kept warm by air curtains

January) condemns the fact that retailers appear to be "wasting large amounts of energy" by leaving shop doors open in subzero temperatures. Mr Nowell may not have fully appreciated the major advances in

Sir: David Nowell (letter, 2

air separation technology made in recent years. Modern "air curtains" effectively separate the internal and external climates, preventing major heat loss through an open doorway, reducing uncomfortable draughts and, most importantly, making a positive contribution to

the overall heating efficiency of the

building hearing system.
While there are no doubt many thousands of old-technology door heaters still in use, major British retailers have recognised the energy-saving benefits of the new air separation technology and have invested heavily in such equipment.
Mr Nowell may be interested to

learn that shops with "open door trading" attract more potential customers than retail outlets where the door is closed. The benefits of air separation systems have also been welcomed by those who operate huildings where continually-opening doors are a necessity - hospitals, clinics, hotels, leisure centres, banks and huilding societies. PAUL DONOVAN

Biddle Air Systems Nuneuton, Warwickshire

Labour pain

Sir: With reference to your articles of I and 2 January on Labour Party structure and the letter from Ben Lucas on 4 January, am I alone in thinking that until the general election a period of silence on the part of Mr Lucas and the Labour Co-ordinating Committee would be most welcome? JOHN F SPELLAR, MP (Warley West, Lab) House of Commons London SW7

Families lack political backing

Sir: Polly Toyobee's assertion (6 January) that the only useful thing a government can do for families is to wait until they are in danger of collapse and then provide social workers to sort them out is

profoundly depressing. There are several more useful things it can do. It can refraio from promoting the social and economic conditions which breed "disaster families". It can ensure that poor families do not pay proportionately more of their income in taxes than rich ones; it can ensure that if a couple on benefits live together, their joint income is not lower than if they live apart; it can use the tax and benefit systems to alleviate the loss of income and extra costs which childrearing entails; it can use the maintenance system to ensure that fathers are not financially better off as a result of dumping their wives and children.

In short, a government can recognise that its role in family life need not be solely an authoritarian, punitive one, which comes into offect only when the family has become a "disaster". That route is precisely the one the present government has been following: the results can hardly he described JEAN MOLLOY

The trauma that follows rape

Sir: I don't know exactly what Dr Thompson read (Letters, 3
January) that I was supposed to have said about rape, but I can assure him that the quotations attributed to me were not true. I did not say, for example, that "long-term psychological disorder is an inevitable consequence of rape". All I said was that when something so traumatic happens you are not the same afterwards as you were before. And I certainly did not make the ridiculous statement that treatment has to be given daily for a

My original answers to a TV company's questions had subsequently heen taken up by radio and newspapers. The passing on of information by such means can produce considerable Professor JOAN FREEMAN London W1

Jinx strikes the Misery Line

Sir: At 6.25pm on 6 January I was reading my copy of The Independent on the northhound platform of Angel tube station in London, waiting for my train

When it pulled in and 1 boarded, I continued reading ... the article on the London Underground Northern Line, with its "cranky carriages" grinding to a halt in pitch-black tunnels.

As we pulled out of Highgate tation at 6.55, and I finished reading the article ... we came to an ahrupt halt. One hour later, at 7.55, we finally crawled into East Finchley station (the next stop!) with a garbled message of apology blaming signal problems. Might I suggest that you warn

us next time you publish an article critical of London Underground? PETER ROSS London N2

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; c-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Brussels

Suzanne Moore recommends zero tolerance for liberal critics of Tony Blair's support for a US-style clampdown on petty crime, while Jason Bennetto examines whether such tactics by the police actually work

The big issue? Safer streets



Mean streets: a homeless person on the pavement in central London yesterday

Photograph; Jason Bye

o Tony Blair admits he finds King's Cross "actually quite a frightening place for people" and supports the "zero tolerance" policies that are being used experi-mentally by police in the area. Such a sentiment has been castigated by middle-class liberals who themselves exhibit zero tolerance for anything that appears to their befuddled minds as evidence of a drift rightwards.

Since when, we might ask, did it become right-wing to care about what happens on our streets? Since when is it right-wing to acknowledge that many of us feel unsafe? Since Jack Straw upset everyone with his tirade about squeegee mer-chants and aggressive heggars, that's when.

Straw may be mi trying to out-Howard the hard man himself but to ignore what ls going on in our streets as we wincingly hand over our change to teenagers wrapped in cheap sleeping bags is not enough.

Many of those concerned about the erosion of civil liberties that zero tolerance operations may entail do not use the streets much. They are forever encased in their cars. Those who think graffiti is a wonderfully expressive art form are erately contained in certain

unlikely to live in areas covered with misspelt racist slogans, nor will they need to use the public phone boxes wallpapered with cards detailing the abilities of a range of young and busty "models".

I don't blame Blair for being frightened of King's Cross. I lived there for more than 10 years and I ended up not so much frightened as depressed by the range of detritus, animal, vegetable and mineral, that litters its streets. There had always been heggars and prostitutes and drugs and the flop houses but there was a sense of community quite unlike any-thing else I had experienced in London, I liked the street life, there were always so many people around that I felt safe.

"You live in Kings Cross?" strangers would say to me. "I'm so sorry." But I wasn't sorry at all. I loved it. Then things changed. Or I changed.

A new set of Italian heroin dealers moved in, shortly followed by crack dealers. At residents' meetings the police would explain that they were actually decreasing the number of officers on the streets. It was difficult not to believe in some conspiracy theory which involved all the drugs and prostitution in London being delibdesignated areas, Kings Cross being one of them.

My children found used syringes, and abandoned condoms on the stairs of my block of flats. At my daughter's school, some kids retrieving a football stumbled upon four or five guys shooting up behind the wall. Nothing was sacred any more. Children's pushchairs would be stolen, gold chains

If we are afraid of the streets, then one of our biggest civil liberties has already been lost

snatched from the neck of the Asian woman shopkeeper.

Doors would be kicked in for the sake of a second-hand portable TV. Tattooed girls who could harely keep their eyes open would approach punters in hroad daylight and abuse them if their services were not required. Even the winos who harked in to the night started pushing little bags of heroin on a sale-or-return basis. The

dealer across the road from me safety in numbers, as any was finally busted after a shootout with the police.

I received a questionnaire from Camden council asking whether I used the local amenities. Did they mean that stinky little patch of grass which was full of dogshit and drunken Glaswegians? No, I didn't take my children for picnics there

Now none of this was lifethreatening. Many people live in far worse circumstances but all I know is that it gets you down. Petty crime may be petty but you can still feel imprisoned by it. The old ladies on my block were terrified to walk around at all and lihood of anything happening order to feel safe. to them would help them.

They were afraid. I was afraid for my children. I that the kind of modern policwouldn't let them play on the streets and I helieve that children like adults should play on the streets.

Of course we should be intolerant of homelessness, not the in the end to an area that has homeless and we should be aware that zero tolerance crime. Drugs and prostitution polices have to mean more than a form of street cleansing. But to accuse Blair of pandering to voters on this whole issue misses the point. Public this talk of community is a fantasy if we do not feel we own the spaces we share. It is in no one's interest to further crimithe new undesirables up the road a hit is a short-term solunon. But there is more to it than that.

If zero tolerance campaigns seem almost entirely negative by inhibiting how we behave on the streets, there are also positive steps to be taken to repopulate those streets. There is

woman knows. We also know who it is we are afraid of.

Rather than curfews to make us feel safer I would like to see a change in licensing laws so that the 24-hour city can become more than an idea. One feels safer walking in the early hours among the hordes of cappuccino drinkers on Soho pavements than on any deserted street.

Anyone, whether a charming heggar or aggressive Big Issue seller, is also less frightening if there are others around.

Zero tolerance policies fall down when they fail to distinguish between different forms of street life. We do not need no amount of statistics about the purging of huskers, except how their fear of crime was that man at Finsbury Park who out of proportion to the like- has never been able to sing, in

Feeling safe is the key. Some police officers will even admit ing that seeks consumer satisfaction is more interested in making us feel safe than ensuring that we actually are safe.

I moved out of King's Cross as many problems and as much are just round the corner rather than on my doorstep and I like it better that way.

I do not want to live under siege any more than I want to space is a battleground and all live in Singapore. I want the streets to be full, not empty, street life to he richer, not poorer. Those concerned with civil liberties must recognise nalise the homeless. Shifting that as long as we are afraid of the streets themselves then one of our biggest freedoms has already been lost. While they are at it they might also like to consider whose liberty they are protecting - the right of people to terrorise public space or the right of the rest of us simply to inhabit it?

approach to crime in which any misdemeanour, however mmor, is stamped upon by the police - has gained a new disciple, Tony Blair. He has joined a bandwagon whose engers aiready include

he "zero tolerance"

John Major, the Home Secre-tary, Michael Howard, and his Labour shadow, Jack Straw. They all appear to believe that one of the modern panaceas of

crime is to pour large numbers of foot pairol officers into a "problem area" and ensure all ws are enforced. They argue that by clamping down on "minor" crime and nuisance - hegging and abusive drunks, cyclists riding on the pavement, litter louts - many of

the more serious offences and offenders will be eliminated. The enthusiasm for zero tolerance comes from its apparent successful introduction into New York's crime-ridden streets, and a pilot scheme in London's seedy Kings Cross.

However, closer examination shows the scheme may he more about feelgood policing than about stopping serious crime. Zero tolerance was greatly influenced by the criminologists James Wilson and George Kelling, whose 1982 article, Broken Windows, argued that leaving a hroken window unre-

paired would encourage vandals to wreck the rest. The theory was put to the test in New York about three years ago. Under the direction of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and his former police commissioner. William Bratton, the city's police made a priority of cracking down on "quality of life crimes", such as graffiti

and begging.
British politicians and police officers have flocked to New York to admire the results. A week ago Mayor Giuliani

announced that a city once notorious for its violence now ranks 144th on the FBI's comparison of crime in America's 189 largest cities. The city's murder total last year fell below 1,000 for the first time in nearly 30 years. The total is now less than half the figure recorded in 1990. Theft and hurglary have also dropped.

But many criminologists believe other, more influential factors are responsible for the city's change of fortune. There has been a demographic shift in the American population, with fewer young males, the group

In an ideal world the police would make big cuts in the level of crime, as well as making the public feel safe

most prone to violent crime. The turf wars between rival drug gangs are considered to have stabilised and many of the more bloodthirsty offenders are now hehind bars.

Evidence that this is a national trend is shown by the fact that about 125 American cines have seen dramatic falls in murder rates.

But how does this approach translate to Britain, which is not yet overrun by drugs and guns? In the six-week-long Kings Cross experiment, an extra 20 to 25 police officers were re-deployed to provide 24-hour, high-profile foot patrols. They were given strict instructions not to tolerate any law breakers or threatening actions. This included aggressive drunks, pushy beggars, people throwing

litter, and drug users. At any one time there were 20 to 40

officers working the patch. The flurry of arrests slowed to a trickle after a few days. But police believe the crime rate, for both small and hig offences. dropped significantly during the period because of their tactics. Furthermore, they say, two neighbouring police areas did not suffer an upsurge in offences from displaced miscreants. Residents were also

happy with the results. So zero tolerance is a big success? Not necessarily, Scotland Yard admits that keeping so many officers on patrol would eventually affect other services and could not be sustained for

long without extra resources. With police forces throughout Britain struggling to make ends meet, they do not have the spare cash to lavish on hordes

of extra beat bobbies. It is also too early to tell whether the Kings Cross scheme has reduced crime permanently. And with violent crimes rising by 10 per cent to 331,300 in England and Wales last year, the public may feel

there are other priorities. Chief constables recognise these dilemmas, and Scotland Yard appears to acknowledge that one of the most important henefits from the pilot scheme (was the feelgood factor.

As a Metropolitan Police spokesman acknowledged: "By maintaining a higher police presence [in Kings Cross] we are reassuring the public and reducing the fear of crime. The

idea was to tackle [that] fear." In an ideal world the police would make hig cuts in the level of crime as well as making the public feel safe. Though it undoubtedly makes good political sense to sweep troublemakers off the streets, it may be a luxury we cannot afford.



FIT THE BEST

Everest House, FREEPOST, Cuffley,

Hartfordshire EN6 4YA.

Eddie from Bracknell, voice of democracy

t's Eddie on the line from Bracknell here, I don't normally phone in to these programmes, but I'd just like to say that I've been listening to your guest and I think he is absolutely wrong, I don't think proportional representation or the single transfer-able vote would be a threat to democracy, and shall I tell you why? I'll tell you why. Because we haven't got democracy here, that's wby. All we have is a chance, once every five years, to choose between two similar packs of plausible rogues, no, hear me out, what I am saying is true, in fact, I wouldn't even say they were very plausible, you take Dr Brian Mawhinney for example, I don't know why he calls himself a doctor, if I saw him leaning over me at the scene of a road accident 1 would say I was feeling fine rather than risk being treated by him, but that's by the by, it's just that I was listening to him the other day on the Today programme saying what wonderful things the Government has done such as safeguarding the railways, and I thought to myself, How

man without hlushing say that the Tories have done marvels for the railways when for years all they have ever done is starve them of cash or sell them off cheap and either way undermine them? Doctoring the truth, that's the only kind of doctoring Mr Brian Mawhinney has ever got up to, mark you, they seem to go in for fake doctors a lot in Northern Ireland, what's that other plausihie rogue? Dr so-called Ian Paisley, that's the fellow. I tell you if I saw him leaning over me at the scene of a road accident I'd get such a fright I'd agree to be treated by Old Ma Whinney, but I suppose being a doctor helps you to get a parking space in Belfast, where was I? Democracy, yes, to come to the point, I think people in this country are starved of democracy, of having any say in the way they are governed. and that's why they want a bit of constitutional reform, the Labour Party and Lib Dems are absolutely right here, we all feel (except the Tories) that the way things are run at

the moment is not right and

things have got to be

changed, so when John



Miles Kington

Major gets on his high horse and says it will all end in tears and lead to the hreakup of Great Britain, he's talking through his hat, we're just asking him to consider improving a desperate situation, though it's funny to see him facing both ways, I mean, when it comes to the UK he is adamant that we must keep the union going at all costs but when it comes to the EU he seems hell-bent on obstructing it and hampering its workings, come on make your mind up John Major! Are you helping or

hindering? Are you the per-sonality of the year? Are you, my foot! No, all I wanted to say was that the people of this country are so starved of democracy, real democracy, that they pay good money to pretend to have democracy! What am I talking about? I'll tell you what I'm talking about. I'm talking about phone-in democracy, that's what I'm talking about, you only have to switch on TV teletext to see notices saying: "Do you think Michael Atherton is doing a good job as England captain? Ring in with your YES or NO vote now!" or "Who do you think is man of the match! Register your vote now!" See what I'm getting at? We're so starved of real democracy that people are prepared to lash out money on phone calls to register a vote that doesn't mean anything, just to get a feeling of participation. That's why programmes like .- Lin Questions have turned into boring party political pro-grammes, which they never used to be, and why Dimhietry says now and again, "Well, this isn't strictly a democratically significant

exercise, but it would be

interesting to see how many people in this hall think that the queen should be abolished, so just raise your hands if you think she should be." Of course it's statistically meaningless, but emotionally Dimhleby has got it right because it does give people a momentary feeling of participation which they never get normally, so what I am getting at is that we have turned into a phoney, phonein democracy, where a phone people ever get to a vote, no. hang on, I'm almost finished now, I just want to say that I am as bad as anyone because I have hogged this whole conversation through just ringing in. but I am con-vinced that if I didn't have this outlet for my opinions I might run amok with a machete or blow my savings on the National Lottery, 50 maybe phone-ins do have their own validity until such time as real democracy comes along, that's what I think anyway ...'

Well, do you think Eddie is right? Phone NOW to register vour vote for either YES or

can be say that? How can the

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Let's root out the rot in our sickly constitution

R ichard North is the latest in a long line of commentators to have discerned the true virtue of the British Constitution. It is that it works. Critics, he argued in his three articles on these pages last week, have misunderstood the basic rationale of our system - which is not rule hy the people, hut strong government. The Constitution should indeed "appal any democrat who believes in rule by and for the people", since its pur-pose is quite different. For it is "a system for selecting and controlling a governing élite (the parliamentarians)" and in doing this, it succeeds in eliminating the "serious danger of direct democracy".

HE INDEPENDENT

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ocracy

Defenders of the Constitution should, however, ask themselves why what was once a model so widely admired has now become a warning of what to avoid. In the Fifties and Sixties, the Westminster model was the paradigm of democracy, adopted in much of Africa and Asia. Today, none of the new democracies of central and eastern Europe has for one moment contemplated adopting the British system. None believes that an omnicompetent government, elected by the largest minor-

ity, yields a regime that is either effective or fair. All of them, therefore, have codified constitutions with judicial review; none uses the first-past-the-post electoral system; most have adopted one of the varieties of proportional representation.

For even in its own terms, the British Constitution fails. If the purpose of an election is to select a governing elite, it has not performed this function very well in recent years. The last three general elections have produced goveraments with working majorities in the House of Commons. Two of these governments – in 1983 and 1987 – enjoyed landslide majorities of more than 100. All three, however, rested on just 42 per cent of the vote. Can a government, however large a majority it enjoys in the Commons, be effective when it is in so much

of a minority in the country?
In 1923, in an endeavour to secure a singleparty majority, Mussolini amended the Italian electoral law so that the winning party would automatically receive two-thirds of the seats. That is electoral gerrymandering of a kind that we in Britain would never countenance. But we do not need to. For in 1983, the British electoral system gave Margaret Thatcher nearly two-thirds of the seats in the House of Commons for just 42 per cent of the vote. She achieved a massive parliamentary majority, although she was in a minority of more than four and a half million of the popular vote. How, in a democracy, can a government be strong when nearly three-fifths of the voters are against it?

The electoral system, moreover, discriminates even against the two major parties in areas where they are weak. Labour, in 1992, won only 10 seats in the South-east of England outside Greater London. The Conservatives, despite their electoral victory, won only five of the 54 constituencies in the major conurbations of Birmingham, Bradford, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield, No wonder conservative MPs sometimes find it difficult to comprehend the prob-



Vernon **Bogdanor**

Reformers must do more than shift power among oligarchs. We need to have real, direct democratic processes

> per with "a system which has been with us since before the Norman Conquest", while the Earl of Strafford felt that their lordships were in danger of moving too fast, There is probably more wisdom to be found in a random sample from the local pub than there is in the House of Lords.

> The inadequacy of the second chamber makes possible omnicompetent government. Such a government can, as Richard North notices, be cheeked by riot, as with the poll tax. Riot, however, is scarcely a constitutional

The poll tax is indeed a graphic example of what happens when politicians ignore the people. Today, constitutional reform needs to go well beyond Richard North's chitist system. The widespread distillusionment with politicians and the increase in support for constitutional change, displayed in numerous opinion polls, has occurred precisely because our political system frustrates the desires of voters to participate in decisions that affect them. Constitutional reformers must do more than simply shift power among the oligarchs who aspire to rule us, which means a much greater emphasis on the instruments of direct democracy - not only referendums, but citizens' juries, people's parliaments and other innovations that technological advances have made possible.

The successful working of the British Constitution rested on contingent factors - it presupposes a deferential and homogeneous society divided by class. In such a society, most voters will find themselves in effect represented by just two parties, one broadly social democratic, the other broadly capitalist; and they will be happy for politicians to take decisions on their behalf. A society of this kind existed between the 1940s and the Seventies, hut it has now passed away. Our political system thus needs to be refashioned to meet the needs of a new society. The point then today is not to reinterpret the British Constitution, hut to

Come quietly, please, Mr Milosevic

esterday was Christmas Day in Serbia, where the Orthodox Church uses the Julian calendar. If the Serbs are lucky, their real

lems of the inner cities.

gives us not majority gov-

ernment, hut government

by the largest minority. Our

constitution then allows that

minority to govern, untram-

melled by checks upon its

nower. Almost alone among

democracies, we have no

codified constitution, no

judicial review of legisla-

tion, no federal system, a

weak structure of local gov-

ernment, and a feeble sec-

ond chamber. Richard North defends

the House of Lords by say-

ing that it is "wiser than most of us". That would

also be the opinion of most

of their lordships. It is not,

however, one that can be

sustained by any dispas-

sionate phserver of the

Lords proceedings.

In March 1994, the Lords rejected Lord Diamond's Bill allowing the first-born, whether male or female, to

inherit a peerage. Lords Mowhray and Stourton objected since the eldest

daughter of an ancient

house "might marry, shall we say, an American film

star from Hollywood". Even

more "appalling" would be "if a daughter were to marry

a Frenchman and the fam-

ily became French". The

Earl of Shrewsbury warned

his fellow-peers not to tam-

Our electoral system

Christmas gift is on its way. The thousands of alarm clocks that demonstrators sounded in the streets of Belgrade on New Year's Eve sent a message as clear as it was concise: Slobodan Milosevic, your time is up. Peacefully or with violence - that is still unclear.

Ten years and three wars after he first used demagogy and nationalism to come to power, the Serbian leader is embattled as never before. The sustained protests of the past two months. demanding the acknowledgement of opposition victories in elections in November, have put the regime under unprecedented pressure. Crucially, we are now seeing the knock-on effects of those demonstrations; new rifts in the structure of the estahlishment itself.

Those who once loyally supported the regime are eager to distance themselves from the man who hears much responsibility for the deaths of others, and who now himself faces the prospect of political sudden death. The demonstrators talk of their "velvet revolution" - a wistful looking back to what the demonstrators achieved in Prague in 1989. But the latest cracks, as revealed this week, are a reminder that the collapse of the regime may owe as much to Romania as it does to Czechoslovakia,

Even before the New Year, some officers had expressed anonymous solidarity with the demonstrators. Last week, the Orthodox Church, once fiercely nationalist, sharply condemned the regime. Now, in a remarkable twist, some in the Serbian military have declared themselves ready to use firepower against Mr Milosevic, if the Serbian leader tries to use force to suppress the protests. That raises the spectre of Romanianstyle bloodshed, when the army and Nicolae Ceausescu's hated Securitate forces hattled it out in the streets of Bucharest in December 1989.

The army appears to have realised what Mr Milosevic may perhaps not yet have acknowledged: that, for the first time in his political life, he has nowhere to turn. The pattern was set in the rest of east Europe, seven years ago. Hard and soft alike, the regimes collapsed. When they offered concessions - as the Serbian government has done in recent days, by offering limited recognition of opposition election victories - demonstrators became emboldened to ask for more. And when the authorities clamped down - by threatening a massacre (in Leipzig) or just by beating people up (in Prague), that enraged even those who until then had stayed of the Dayton peace accord, Mr neutralise the opposition and at home making dinner or Milosevic has repeatedly been save his political skin - if, for

Will the embattled Serbian leader heed the ringing of demonstrators' alarm clocks - or exit on a tide of violence, asks Steve Crawshaw



watching TV unmoved by the dramas on the streets.

If he unleashes bloodshed, Mr Milosevic may even learn as if a crazed gangster who disthe lesson that Ceausescu learnt on an icy Christmas Day: that those who live by the gun do indeed sometimes die by the

Even if Mr Milosevic resigns tomorrow, his departure would be lethally late. Because of the nationalism that the Serbian leader unleashed (abetted at one remove by his Croatian shadow, President Franjo Tudjman) hundreds of thousands of innocent people lost their homes, their families, their lives. The wars in Yugoslavia took place to ensure Mr Milosevic's own continued hold on nower, threatened by the multiparty elections in Yugoslavia that immediately followed the

And yet, with the conclusion

praised by the West for his contribution to peace and even "stability" in Bosnia today. It is patched killer thugs to the other helped him to power. The ten-remain mistrustful, still seem houses in his street were to be sions in Kosovo, where Alhapraised for helping the police with their inquiries - once most of the people in the street were exploded in recent years. Serbs already dead.

There are important differences between Belgrade in 1997 and Leipzig, Prague or Buch-arest in 1989. The Serhian regime, sustained by poisonous television propaganda, is not universally loathed and feared (just as, we should remember, have filled the streets of Bel-Hitler was not hated by ordinary Germans). A small and outspoken opposition press has long been toterated in Belgrade - because only a tiny minority cared enough to read it.

Even now, Mr Milosevic might pull one last hloodstained rahhit out of the hat to went by - that would make the early collapse of the Serbian regime inevitable. Importantly, however, the elephant's hide has been pierced. In the past, Mr Milosevic has reacted calmly, almost dismissively, to protests on the street. This time, things have been different. He has tried, and failed, to mount counter-demonstrations; and his government has even admitted to losing a few elections. Even now, there is no brave corner. The alarm clocks in Belgrade were a conscious

style momentum - where the

numbers doubled, tripled, and multiplied tenfold as the days

new Serhian world around the throwback to the little bells Czechs rang in Wenceslas Square in November 1989, as a gel-out-of-here message in the regime. But Serbia is not Czechoslovakia, not by a long way. Above all, it has no Vaclay Havet to lead it into a democratic future. The sanest of Serbia's three main opposition leaders. Vesna Pesic, is the one with least popular support. The other two, Vuk Draskovic and Zoran Djindjic, are still tainted by the nationalism of recent years. Mr Draskovic's own party has bad a clearly nationalist tinge in past years (the leopard insists he has changed his spots). Mr Djindjic was bappy to fraternise with Radovan Karadzic, during the

After 1945, it took years for most ordinary Germans to accept the monstrosity of what their country and countrymen had done. Equally, it will take years for Serbia - which still sees itself as almost guilt-free to come to terms with what Serbs have done, in Srebrenica and elsewhere. But by acknowledging the borror of the past, Serbia would not diminish itself. On the contrary, as the German example has shown, such admissions could provide the foundation for a selfconfident and honest Serbia; one that would no longer be a menace to its neighbours. For now, even ordinary Serbs

themselves as victims. Like mil lions of Russians, they forget that they, too, actively or passively helped an evil regime to flourish. One day, though, selfawareness may come to Serbia. And Western politicians and Serbs alike might understand that the true interests of Serbia are not identical with the murderous nationalism, incited by Slobodan Milosevic, which has maimed his country and grade for the past seven weeks destroyed the reputation of its have not yet gained the Prague-people.

Lois's undie-achiever

Ann Treneman on how marriage changed Superman

Since Superman got married three months ago, things have not been very super at all. His powers have been on the wane and the Man of Steel has been seen wearing oven mitts in the kitchen. He has been known to be too tired to do much of anything in the evenings. So far, so familiar for any new

men struggling to save the world for truth and justice and whip up that memorable soufflé. But just when Lois was about to hreak him in and get him cleaning the work surfaces, he has a super-sized mid-life crisis. This requires a new image, so out

goes the cape and the trusty underpants and in comes a skin-tight bodysuit decorated with lightning bolts (described by some as "the Linford Christie look"). As of March, he will zap instead of fly. Lois must be wondering why he can't just grow a moustache and take up mountaineering like everyone else. To make matters worse, he is in

denial. He claims that he has to wear this new suit for health reasons and refuses to admit it is an elaborate ruse to ditch his new man responsibilities. It was time to get real. Surely Mike Carlin, the executive editor at DC Comics in New York, would reveal the truth behind our hero's comic-book makeover.

Mr Carlin, who describes himself as "The Great Carlint", is 100 per cent hehind the suit excuse. "Superman is getting a new suit because his powers have changed and he has become a being of energy and he is dispersing. Now if you've ever dispersed, you know how painful that can be, and he



really does need his new suit to contain himself. I mean it's not like he just felt like changing his clothes - it's a do-or-die situation."

What about Lois? "This has nothing to do with his marriage except that Lois Lane married him 'for better and for worse' and now she has to be there for the 'for worse' part," he says. "She will do whatever she can to help him get his powers back. Right now, that entails standing behind the idea of wearing this new suit to keep himself solid."

You see how it has all been twisted so Lois has to do a Tammy Wynette and Stand By Her Man. Will Superman still make the odd casserole, at least? "Well, if he is around long enough and not saving a busload of orphans or something, yes. He is going to be a superhusband, which is what every woman wishes she had."

Carlini refused to be drawn on the Linford angle. Underpants and fertility do have a link, after all. Could a superbaby be in the plot? He scoffed, hut admitted: "Yeah, I know how it looks, but that has nothing to do with the storyline."

Then he came up with a family values quote that would appeal to John Major, another man who has heen seen with his underpants showing. "Look, if we can get new vounger readers to try Superman, then they'll see the morals that stand behind what he is. After all, it doesn't matter what kind of costume you wear. It's what is inside

An end to dieting? Fat chance

Year – and guess what? There is a revolutionary new way to

exploitation and capitalisation – in which the only losers are us.

So, what we need is a post-post diettime last year?). No, listen, it's fantastic - no need to count calories - all you need to do is eat six boiled cggs with half a grapefruit every half an hour for two hours before you get out of bed ... and after that, all you need to do is ...

Now correct me if I'm wrong, hut I thought we were in a totally new era. Aren't we now in postdieting times, when it's fah to be fat - even though it might actually kill you? But let's not worry about that. What matters is that instead of counting calories, we are keeping the cash registers dinging with our panic-buying of the latest "non-diet books. desperately, guiltily hoping that between the lines lies the secret of a 22-inch waist. Thus we can feel we can keep up with the trends, deny the guilt surrounding our obsessions,

accept our rolls of fat craze for "thinness-free, non-dieting" diet books, the advertisers and the diet-

ing industry. The growing fab-to-be-fat hrigade has come on the hack of saturation coverage of the "norm" of superthin models such as Jodie Kidd (above). One extreme has simply followed another. It's an exhausting roller-coaster of yearly

ing era. (A hit like post-post mod-ernism, but with more calories!) And we need it to start now - before we die from being overweight, or become terminally depressed trying to accept our unacceptable adipose. We need the pendulum to take another dramatic

swing - to the middle. In this new era, it will be good and positive to be slim - but hy permanearly giving up the guiltridden, desperate cycle of starving and hingeing. It will be good to eat healthy, nourishing food and still lose weight. It will be good to enjoy Christmas without the compulsory trough-out. It will be good to start 1998 and not need the Revolutionary New Diet when "all you need to do is ... etc" (yawn). It will be good, because it will he possible.

And it will be possible when we stop being victims, and learn to trust

Wrong. The only people who are happy are the publishers of the new take responsibility for our eating habits, which we are genuinely prepared to change - permanently - and take control of our lives, and of what we do and don't put in our mouths - and others' pockets. Then next January we could genuinely say "Happy New Year".

Helen Bailey



example, be unleashes yet

another conflict, in the

Albanian-majority province of

Kosovo where nanonalism first

nians have been stripped of

see Kosovo as their historic "heartland": they would be happy if the Albanians were not

there at all. With enough

encouragement from Belgrade,

the tensions might he per-

suaded to explode, once more.

The demonstrations that

basic rights, have repeatedly



Welcome to the future; Seiko Kinetice, the first quartz watch that turns your movement intopower. Every move you make is converted into electrical impulses by a tiny built-in powerhouse. Ecological, reliable and efficient: wear it one day to gain energy for at least two weeks. Wear it daily - it will run continually. Made of titanium: light, yet strong and kind to your skin. 20 bar water resistant. One-way rotating bezel and screw lock crown. Selko Kinetic - it's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

Seiko Kinetic at: http://www.seiko-corp.co.jp

business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Marjorie Scardino: 'Have a plan, execute it violently and do it today'

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

Pearson's new chief executive, who begins the high-profile job today, bas taken to heart the advice of US Genicism in the City because of what aneral Douglas MacArthur, have a alysts call a lack of focus. good plan, executive it violently, and do it today. Marjoric Scardino said the line was mentioned to her by a

strategy at the media and financial services conglomerate, which is under City pressure to restructure its vast array of assets.

colleague and seemed to sum up her

Scardino's intention to shake up the sleepy giant, which has attracted crit-

Just wait until she gets into the job," a seniur colleague warned. "She is going to shake a tot of people up.

Known at the Economist Group. where she was chief executive, as a hands-on, "intuitive" manager, Ms Scardino is expected to move quick-The motto is a measure of Ms ly to prove berself. City analysis and

leading institutional shareholders ment from Pearson subsidiaries. bave said she will be given the benefit of the doubt, at least for six months. "Have I really got as long

as that?" Ms Scardino joked. On ber first day, she has planned a series of meetings with division beads, starting at 9.30am. I hate the idea of going in without meeting

everybody properly," sbe said.

Later this month, sbe is planning to visit the New York headquarters. where she will meet senior manag-

Later in the year, she intends to talk to leading financial institutions and

Pearson's new chief signals her intent as executives prepare for the advent of a rigorous regime

"I think we made a mistake back when my apppointment was an-nounced (in October)." Ms Scardigo said. "We should have met all the City people then, because I think they like to look you in the eye."

An early target of her attention is likely to be Mindscape, the ill-starred CD-Rom manufacturer pri-

marily responsible for Pearson's bad press during the past year and a con-tributing factor to the early retirement of Frank Barlow, the outgoing managing director. Most analysts expect Pearson to sell the company rather than try to turn it around. Also on a list of options is the sale

sion, led by Madame Tussaud's, and its half share in the Lazard merchant banking operation. Some analysis even expect Ms

of the company's theme park divi-

sidiary, or even sell it outright. That would please Greg Dyke, the chief executive of Pearson Television, who is believed to be in favour of a sale. More broadly, she is expected to

encourage different subsidiaries -ranging from books to television to financial information - to work more closely together. She has declined to comment on the options, saving only that she has ruled nothing out.

Ms Scarding, born and raised in

the US, is widely being seen, both inside and outside the company, as a

new broom. Unlike past Pearson senior management, she eschews ceremony, dislikes pomp and is decidedly down to earth in an unmistakahly Amer-

That approach may make some of Pearson's staff uncumfortable, insiders warned. At the Financial Times, for instance, there are growing fears that Ms Scardino's appointment could lead to further job cuts and changes to the opera-tional structure of the newspaper.

Bids create £300m fee bonanza for lawyers

Banking Correspondent

City law firms reaped rich rewards from last year's boom in takeover activity by scooping a record £300m in fees, a 50 per cent increase from 1995.

This upturn in business has led to an explosion in vacancies at law firms, driving salaries higher and boosting the earn-ings of partners at the firms. "I would have expected part-ners to bave had one of their

best years for quite a number of years," said David Woolfson, recruitment cunsultant at Chambers. a leading firm of recruitment experts for lawyers.

The legal data compiled by Acquisitions Monthly follow calculations by Philip Healey, editor of the magazine, that total fees paid out fur mergers and acquisitions in the UK reached a record £1.1bn in 1996. This figure includes fees paid to investment bankers. lawyers, accountants and public relations advisers.

Last year created a good environment for mergers because the stock market soared and interest rates were low. This makes deals less earnings-dilutive for the buver.

Deals were also driven by expectations that a Labour government would be elected this year and alter taxation and

competition policy. In 1997, City lawyers expect

though Nigel Boardman, partner at Slaughter & May, which was ranked second in Acquisitions Monthly's tables, thinks the election may lead to a slowdown

in activity during 1997. The rankings are based on the value of mergers between UK firms on which the law firms advised, rather than the number of deals.

Slaughter & May advised on 25 deals, the largest number, but was second in the table because their value amounted to

Linklaters & Paines took first place by advising on 19 deals worth £19.02bn. It advised on a number of £1bn-plus deals such as Royal Insurance's £2.4bn merger with Sun Alliance, and ousted Freshfields, the City firm run by Anthony

Salz, a mergers and acquisitions specialist, from the top slot. Freshfields fell to third with 17 deals worth £9.46bn. Barry O'Brien, head of corporate fi-nance at Freshfields, said: We are not surprised by our posi-tion in these tables since we started the year by being con-flicted out of both sides of the

£3.6bn Granada-Forte bid." "Perhaps more importantly, we bave also advised on over £16bn of US-UK mergers, such as Premier-Farnell and BT-MCI, which did not even qualify for the tables [because they took place outside the UK!."

While the the mergers during 1996 were not as large as in previous years, they were more complex, which helped generate higher fees for the law firms

Top legal advisers fo	r UK public takeovers
. Legal adviser	No of deals Value £m
1 Linklaters & Paines (3)	19 19,016
2 Slaughter and May (2)	25 16,260
3 Freshfields (1)	17 9,457
4 Ashurst Morris Crisp (13)	15 8,986
5 Allen & Overy (8)	15 8,768
6 Herbert Smith (4)	17 6,258
7 Macfarlanes (14)	7 5,976
8 Lovell White Durrant (6)	5 5,667
9 Clifford Chance (5)	15 4,595
10 Denton Hall (11)	2 3,688

The increasing complexity of deals meant that last year was even better than 1995 in terms of boosting the coffers of lead-ing law firms," said Mr Healey. Mr Boardman of Slaughter &

May said "There were fewer mega-deals in 1996 but a larger level of overall activity. It's been an active year. It's been a good year."

He now expects continued activity in sectors where further consolidation is needed, such as engineering and financial services, but said changes to competition policy after the election could slow down such consoli-

A number of bids between engineering companies are already under way, such as Triplex Lloyd's offer for William Cook, FKI's bid for Newman Tonks and Fairey's move for Burnfield. In uther sectors, Gulf Canada is bidding for Clyde Petro-leum and Asbquay is chasing

UK Estates. Anthony Cann, head of the corporate department at Linklaters & Paines, expects the healthy start to the year to continue even though the general election later this year may lead to a pause in domestic business. Outside the UK, he predicts that merger business will soar.

Law firms do not publish search by Legal Business, a specialist magazine, confirms that 1996 was one of the best for



Toppled: Freshfields, run by Anthony Salz, has lost its top slot in the merger tables

business to remain hrisk, al-BA link-up faces tough US curbs

Chris Godsmark and Michael Harrison

Two big players in the US airline industry served notice yesterday that they would insist on Washington imposing harsher conditions on the transatlantic alliance between British Airways and American Airlines than those proposed by UK authorities.

United Airlines, the world's biggest carrier, is to urge US regulators to block some of the most lucractive benefits of the tie-up while Delta Air Lines said it was confident that the two airlines would face tougher curbs to gain approval on the other side of the Allantic.

The moves came as Friday's deadline approaches for airlines to respond to the conditions imposed on the alliance by the Office of Fair Trading which has recommended that BA and AA divest themselves of 168 take-off and landing slots at Heathrow, Michael Medlicott, Delta's

vice-president for Euope and Asia said he viewed the OFT's proposals with "considerable distaste", adding: "The conditions are too few, the number of slots to be divested is derisory and it would not allow Delta or anyone else to provide effective competition.

The British motor industry said they were opposed to the idea of BA being allowed to sell the slots, a move which could 2,025,450 new cars sold in 1996.

Source: Acquisitions Monthly

where BA and AA would enjoy According to figures released a total or near monopoly - to resterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Dallas, Miami, Chicagu and New York's John F Kennedy air-Traders, 54 per cent of the 1.65 million cars built in Britain last port - United will ask the US year were exported, mainly to Justice and Transportation decontinental Europe, compared partments to limit the alliance with 48 per cent in 1995 when production reached 1.53 million. Production is forecast to exceed 1.7 million this year.

solely to code-sbaring, where passengers travel between airlines using the same flight code. Other benefits, including the pooling of revenues, facilities and collaboration on ticket prices, would be blocked. United insisted the extra conditions were perfectly reasonable. Similar terms had been allached to the 1995 deal with Lufthansa on overlapping

routes with United between Frankfurt and Chicago and New York. Mike Whittaker, United's director of international affairs, said: "In previous cases US competition authorities have been concerned that where two carriers have bub airports at both ends of a route they will use their market dominance to

4118.50

2013.66

5567.18

3632.30

1791.95 3.69

5032.94 2.03

22666,80 18896.19 0.81t

13530.95 10204 87 3.11f

2909.91 2253.38 1.59†

Source: FT Information

STOCK MARKETS

6534.47 -32.71 -0.5

Both Delta and United also

On four routes from London

net it up to £180m.

Surge in exports lifts British car output

Michael Harrison

exported more cars than it sold at bome last year for the first time in its history. However, the industry's trade balance remained in the red as imported cars took 62 per cent of the

by increasing production at the three Japanese transplant factories in Britain, belped lift total car output to its highest level since 1973. At the same time. official SMMT figures showed that the new car market broke back through the 2 million mark for the first time since 1990. The Honda. Toyota, for instance, will total of 2.025 million was 4 per cent up on 1995 and the third-

highest on record. Ernie Thompson, the SMMT's chief executive, forecast that sales would rise by a further 25,000-50,000 this year despite possible jitters among private buyers in the run-up to the general election. By 2000 the manufacture of a new small SMMT is forecasting sales of 2.2 Land Rover, code-named the

The surge in exports, fuelled million and annual production CB40, at Solihull. of 2 million, enabling the industry to wipe out its long-stand-

ing trade deficit.
In 1995 the industry was in the red to the tune of about £5bn. The rise in output will be partly driven by increased production from Toyota, Nissan and start production of a second mid-sized Corolla model next vear at its Burmaston plant in

Derbyshire. However, British manufacturers are also gearing up to raise production with Jaguar taunching the X200 model from Coventry and Rover preparing to start

The sharp rise in imports from 59 per cent of sales in 1995 to 62 per cent was driven by strong sales to private buyers of models such as the Fiat Bravo and Punto, the Megane and Clio from Renault and the Volkswagen Polo.

The three European manufacturers all increased their market share last year at the expense of UK-based manufacturers. Ford's market share slipped below 20 percent for the first time since 1971 while Vauxhalf's share fell from 15 to 14 per cent and Rover's from 12 to 11 per cent.

The SMMT expects the importers' share of the market to

wice the rate that imports were rising meaning an overall reduction in the trade deficit. Last year Britain shipped about 890,000 cars overseas and

imported 1.26 million cars. This year imports are expected to rise slightly to 1.28 million while exports are forecast to remain around the same level.

year. However, it said that export

production was increasing at

Separately, the SMMT said it would press the next government. Conservative or Labour, to introduce financial incentives for cur owners to scrap old, environmentally unfriendly models and trade them in for new cars.

Comment, page 15

Sky and cable in fresh skirmish

Mathew Horsman

Fresh hostilities bave erupted in the long-simmering battle between BSkyB. Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster. and UK cable operators, with each side accusing the other of spreading disinformation and misleading customers.

Complaints by Interoariunal Cable Tel and one other operator have been deposited with the Independent Televisiun Commission, accusing BSkyB of a dirty tricks" campaign aimed at convincing customers to switch to satellite. One BSkyB tactic, the cable operators complained, was to suggest that cable customers risked having channels dropped without warning in the future. The satellite broadcaster is also accused of unfairly comparing prices between the rival services.

BSkyB has responded with similar charges, accusing cable operators of spreading misleading information about the Sky multichannel package. For instance, some customers have allegedly been told they will no longer receive BSkyB's analogue service of more than 40 channels once the new digital package is introduced at the end of the year. In fact, BSkyB has promised to tal for the foreseeable future

The ITC has written to all UK cable operators, asking them to respond to BSkyB's charges by 24 January.

The intervention by the TV regulator follows a long-running campaign by cable companies to furce action against what they view as anti-competitive behaviour by BSkyB. But a sixmonth inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading controversially cleared the company of the charge in June. Since then, a new rate card establishing the terms and prices of BSkyB's supply of pay-TV programming to the cahle industry has been intro-duced. Cable operators said the rate card, which sets the price of popular Sky programmes such as films and sport, was still unfair, and have threatened the OFT with judicial review and an ap-

peal to Brussels. The appeal to the ITC by International CableTel was dismissed by BSkyB. A senior source said it was a further example of "wbingeing" by cable operators.

Generators prepare for peak demand tonight

Honey Market Rates

Germany 3.09

6.16

5.44

Electricity consumption is fore-5.30pm tonight but power station chiefs said they were confident that the National Grid would meet demand comfortably.

raise prices, particularly for business travellers."

do not go out.

A combination of colder weather and the return of industry from the Chrisimas break is expected to produce demand for between 49,000 and 50,000 megawatts of electricity at this evening's peak. But electricity generators said there A dispute bas been raging be-

7.00 5.75

Brit 80meo Pets 852.5 50 6.2 Wickes

INTEREST RATES

Boud Yields

5.8

4.9 Reming Jap Inv 189

capacity available - more than enough to ensure that the lights

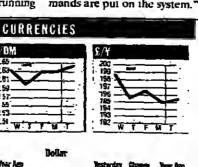
The previous record was set on 25 January last year when demand reached 48,800 megawatts. There is a possibility that peak consumption will exceed 50,000 megawatts for the first time tater this month. Traditionally the second Tuesday in January - which this year falls on the 14th - bas proved to be the day of highest demand.

would be 59,000 megawaits of tween the Grid and big industrial electricity consumers about the ability of the privatised power industry to meet demand. Several independent gas-fired plants are on interruptible supply contracts which means they can be taken off-line at short notice.

Lisa Waters of the Energy Inlensive Users Group, whose members account for a quarter of daily UK electricity demand. said: The impression we have is that the Grid has no contingency plans. They keep running

to our members and offering them huge sums of money to get off the system whenever a problem arises. "Nobody is taking responsibility for ensuring there is sufficient capacity to meet demand and the Grid should be

However, a senior source at one of the privatised generators said: "ti is in nobody's interests for security of supplies to be called into question. We are working 0at out to make sure that we meet whatever de-



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Clarke reviews forecasting

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, yesterday took the first steps towards contracting out the Treasury's economic forecasting to the private sector by announcing that he would shortly appoint consultants to study the feasi-

hility of the idea. The move threatens the jobs of up to 45 staff at the Treasury, hut if the service is contracted out they will be allowed to mount an in-house hid in competition with private sector eco-

nomic forecasters.

The idea of contracting out the forecasting function was floated in late 1994 in a Treasury review of its own expenditure which has since led to a sharp reduction in the number

of civil servants. But at the time Mr Clarke decided to delay the detailed review of the forecasting function for a couple of years.

The three-month consultants study is to look at the feasibility of contracting out the central economic forecast and the forecasting and monituring of public finances.

the hackground work required to produce the economic assumptions made in public expenditure planning, and the assessment of the accuracy of forecasts, by looking at what ac-

tually happens in the economy. The Treasury said that if the consultants' report confirmed that a "market test" was feasible, a formal contract specification would be issued in late spring or early summer inviting outside organisations - and Treasury staff, if they wished to make bids.

The aim would be to complete negotiations in time for the successful bidder to take over responsibility for forecasting from the end of this year.

The Treasury said the study would include the security im-plications of allowing an outside organisation to bave access to sensitive forecasting information that is a key part of the Budgct announcement.

It would also examine options : such as moving the forecasting function entirely outside the Treasury or having civil servants working alongside a private

Comment, page 15

احكذا من الاجل

Long Board (X) Year Age

Price (c) Change (s) % Change

195.5 221.0 52.9

6.3

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صكذا من الاعل



'Forecasters hardly ever beat the average of their peers for

more than a year or two at a time, so finding an outsider who will do better is about as easy as picking the Grand

National winner

A virtual Treasury that Ken can live without L the rage these days so why not a virtual Treasury as well. Perhaps that is what the

Chancellor had in mind when he announced vesterday that consultants will be appointed shortly to study whether its economic forecasting functions should be contracted out to the private sector. It all sounds very laudable and efficiency

oriented. If the BBC can outsource just about everything apart from programme commissioning and airlines can contract out simple admin jobs to India, why not let Whitehall follow the fad?

But hold on a minute: surely one of the core roles of the Treasury is to monitor and forecast economic events and take action where necessary to correct problems?

Furthermore, the forecasting function is not confined to churning out the Budget Red Book once a year. Economic models are also used routinely in the Treasury to look at the impact of new policies for tax and spending.

For a start, there would be a minor security problem, in that an outside firm would have to be told all the tax and spending options. More seriously, to split the forecasting function from the analysis of policy options - which would have to remain in the Treasury - is an unnecessary extra complication and expense.

Given the questionable advantages of going this route, the potential cost savings look modest. With only 45 people affected,

The Treasury is no better and no worse at forecasting than other so called experts. Experience also shows that forecasters hardly ever beat the average of their peers for more than a year or two at a time, so finding an outsider who will do better would be about as easy as picking the Grand National winner. It is hard to see the point of it all.

Little British in British car industry

these days there are not many things about I the British car industry that are still truly British, save perhaps for the spacious Belgravia headquarters of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Britain long since gave up the pretence that it actually owned a car industry. Much easier to leave that to the Americans, the Japanese, the French and, God forbid, the Germans. Next it will, no kidding, be the Koreans. Now it appears that car huyers no longer need to keep up the pretence that they prefer to have a British-huilt model in the driveway either.

From the welter of statistics spewed out from the SMMT's portals yesterday, two

the "virtual corporation" seems to be all the rage these days so why not a virtual potential savings from contracting out must be considerably less.

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In the potential savings from contracting out must be considerably less.

Why bother making Metros, sorry Rover 100s, for the masses when Nicole is driving them crazy in her Renault Clio?

Does all this matter? The SMMT doesn't seem to think so. Indeed it was in positively self-congratulatory mood yesterday. Car sales have broken back through the 2 million harrier for the first time since 1990 and output has not been higher since way hack in 1973 when we still had an empire to flog the Oxford Morris to.

Who cares that six in 10 huyers here now prefer something more exotic? Look at Italy and France, where imports are also rising. Look at Ireland and the Netherlands where the situation is even grimmer. (Neither sadly sports an indigenous car industry.)

In fact it almost certainly does matter. First, what profits are being made from the car industry are not accruing here. True, the sector may not as a whole be covering its cost of capital.

But when the good times roll, they will roll in the direction of Detroit, Tokyo, Paris, Munich and Seoul,

Second, where the profits (and the losses) roll is where the decisions are ultimately made. The Japanese are probably too far

No end to the Nikkei's woes

Most of those who think markets are go-ing to fall this year have focused firmly on Wall Street. The case for this point of view is a strong and many-faceted one, but there is at least one aspect of it which is more than dubious. It is that the higher something goes, the further it will eventually fall. Not always. it seems. One thing is looking increasingly likely, however, Tokyo will have another bad year of it. A near-550 point fall in the Nikkei on Tuesday night gave a timely reminder of the endless sorrow of this once huoyant market. Just as there is little sign of Wall Street's dizzying assent into the heavens com-ing to an end, it is hard to see why the pain

of the Tokyo market should ease, either. Until the summer, overseas investors kept the Nikkei index on a gently rising trend. They do this most years, the logic being much the same as that which sustains all those stale Wall Street bears. Eventually, mevitably, the Japanese market must revive, everyone says, and every year they seem to get it wrong. Those purchases have now dried up and it is hard to see why they would renewed strength domestic investors will be tempted overseas for the same reason, looking for higher yields and a hedge against

the weak yen.
Liquidity flows alone, then are likely to have a depressing effect on Japanese share prices. The fundamentals do not look very promising either.

One problem is the uncured debt hangover from the late 1980s. In its recent annual assessment of Japan the OECD said it was still impossible to estimate what the eventual cost of bailing out the banking system would be. The mountain of bad loans will remain a hurden on government spending and on hank lending.

A second issue is the deregulation of the economy. Even the Japanese Government has conceded that this is a necessity. Although the process ought to be beneficial in the long-run, raising the profitability of the corporate sector above its past trend, it will hring short-term pain. The effect is to squeeze companies in the protected sectors many of which are internationally uncompetitive - causing them to cut costs, transfer operations overseas where possible, and lay off workers.

Growth in the economy as a whole is going to struggle 10 reach 2 per cent this year. A recent tougher than expected budget has done nothing to bolster the position. Even going this route, the potential cost savings look modest. With only 45 people affected, including support staff, the total hudget must

Eagle Star takes on Virgin with cheap pensions

Nic Cicutti

Eagle Star, the insurer owned by tobacco giant BAT, yesterday opened another front in the escalating war over cut-price financial products by launching a personal pension it claimed was more competitive than any of its rivals, including Virgin.

The company argued that its pension was among the easiest to understand, had clear charges and involved no footin-the-door sales tactics. Its new product comes ahead

of a report tomorrow by the Perthe regulator, which will examine the effect of company nancial products.

The PIA report is expected to show that in the two years so soon after our pension was since rules were introduced to launched that other companies force greater disclosure of are trying to compete with us." charges, their impact has been

the wake of a series of similar product launches, mostly aimed at a growing number of people who prefer to do husiness by telephone.

The company will charge a

fixed £2 a month on the fund itself, plus an annual management charge of 1 per cent. Unlike other firms, which operate a socalled "bid-offer spread" of charges of about 5 per cent, all contributions are immediately allocated to the fund. Both these innovations are identical to those on offer from Virgin Disonal Investment Authority, rect, the growing financial services empire owned by airline tycoon Richard Branson.

Martin Camphell, produc development manager at Virgin Direct, said: "It is good to see Eagle Star breaks new

Eagle Star's pension comes in potential policyholders that if in the first two years they are unhappy with the pension, it will transfer the money to a pension scheme of their choice, without charge.

Steve Roberts, director of Eagle Star's new operation, said: "The personal pensions market has for too long been haunted by the dual problem of unclear charges and a high drop-out rate in early years. Our guarantee, together

with the freedom to suspend contributions without penalty, means that early-surrender problems should he a thing of Eagle Star's launch reflects its

2011 100 11202

tiative after several years of slug-

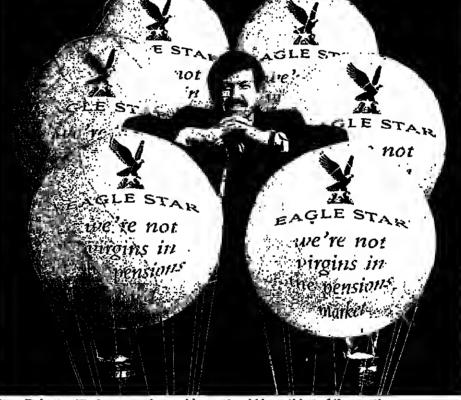
gish financial sales. The

company recently installed a

£55m computer system. It has

also cut staff by 30 per cent to

about 1,500 people. The company hopes to attract ground, however, by promising



Steve Roberts: 'Early-surrender problems should be a thing of the past'

al hard-sell tactics or opaque products and increasingly at-tracted by cheap, no-frills financial products.

Other companies to have entered the market include Scottish Widows, which saw telephone-

than 20 per cent of its pension premium income last year.

The new launches aim to compete with Equitable Life. which has for many years offered some of the cheapest products on the market.

fee and, although it imposes a hid-offer charge of hetween 4.5 and 5 per cent to meet setting-up costs, the annual management charge is 0.5 per cent, half the rate that Eagle Star im-

poses on its new pension.

TSB to offer home shopping

Nigel Cope

TSB is hoping to turn the tables on retailers that have moved into hanking by offering a home-shopping service as part of a new current account.

The move comes as Sainsbury s poised to announce further details of its new telephone hanking operation, the latest in a series of forays by retailers into the hanking arena.

The TSB Select account -

which customers must pay a fee of £3 a month to join - offers a hotline that will enable members to find the best price on more than 25,000 items including hi-fis, fridges and washing machines.

As there is no catalogue customers must decide broadly which product they want before contacting the hotline. The deals offered include those from manufacturers selling

CUC Europe.
"Prices will be significantly cheaper than those available on the high street," claimed Peter will recoup their £3 a month director of current accounts.

TSB says it will make no margin on the sale of products but hopes to gain revenue through credit card transactions and finance deals. The account also offers a motoring service where customers receive a guarantecd £500 off a new car.

Rivals said service was unlikely to work. "We considered this idea but didn't feel it had sufficient appeal." said Gordon Rankin, head of personal banking at Barclays. He said TSB's idea was sim-

ply another example of "charged for" bank accounts. Barclays launched Barclays Additions in October where account-holders also pay a monthly fee. NatWest has since

launched NatWest Premier. Mr Rankin said the flurry of launches would help establish the market for bank accounts where customers pay a monthly fee for a premium service. "The old method of having one kind through database operator of account for all customers is gradually giving way as people

TSB claims that customers McNamara, TSB's managing charge if they make two purchases yearly.

seek more choices.

Japanese shares dive amid fears for yen Baker to appeal against

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Japanese shares dived yesterday to their lowest level for more than a year, hit by concerns about the weak yen and fragile economie recovery.

The Nikkei 225 index fell by nearly 550 points to 18,896, tak- of Finance, joined the chorus of mg its decline since the start of last month to 12 per cent - or about as much as Wall Street has risen over the same period. Analysts predicted that Japanese shares would slide even further as investors continued to move funds overseas for higher returns.

MONEY MARKET CHEQUE

MONEY MARKET BUSINESS CHEQUE ACCOUNT

£250,000 and above

£100,000 to £249,999

£25,000 to £99,999

£250,000 and above

£100,000 to £249,999

£25,000 to £99,999

£5,000 to £24,999

£2,500 to £24,999

Jesper Koll, Tokyo economist for investment bank JP Morgan, said: "The level of interest rates is so close to zero that everyone from Mrs Watanabe to Fortune 500 companies are putting their assets to work in another

currency."
Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, Minister ministers and officials trying to talk the currency markets out of sending the yen even lower against the dollar. It fell to ¥117, its lowest level against the US eurrency for four years, in Tokyo trading yesterday before recovering slightly. "We want exchange rates to stabilise. We will

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INTEREST RATE CHANGE

With effect from 8th January 1997, interest rates

payable on the undernoted accounts have changed.

Gross%

5.50

4.50

4.25

3.50-

Gross%

4.50

3.50

3.00

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continue to act properly against excessive currency movements," Mr Mitsuzuka said.

The yen's recent decline reflects subdued prospects for the economy. The Japanese government recently predicted that the economy would expand by 1.9 per cent in the year from 1 April, its lowest official forecast ever, while the OECD has forecast GDP growth of 1.6 per cent this calendar year. Yesterday Salomon Brothers in Tokyo predicted expansion of less than 1 per cent.

Gerard Lyons, an economist at Japanese bank DKB, said: "The economy has been locked

Gross%

5.75

5.25

4.50

3.75

3.25

Gross%

5.60

5.13

4.65

BANKING DIRECT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

BANKING DIRECT INSTANT ACCESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT

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£5,000 to £9,999

Less than £5,000

£10,000 and above

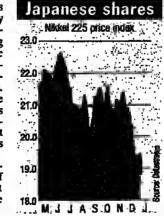
£5,000 to £9,999

£500 to £4,999

into a low growth path and it is not going to break out of it any time soon." The need for structural reforms was offsetting any cyclical upturn in growth, he said, with deregulation squeez-ing profits and triggering cost-

cutting by Japanese companies. There is little hope that the government can act to offset this economic frailty. Official in-terest rates, at 0.5 per cent since September 1995, are as low as they can be.

The recent hudget has tightened fiscal policy, in the light of a deficit amounting to 4 per cent of GDP and a looming state pensions crisis.



IN BRIEF

• Boeing yesterday claimed to have scooped 64 per cent of the world commercial aircraft market last year with 717 orders worth \$53bn (£31hn). On Monday Airbus Industrie said its share was 42 per cent. McDonnell Douglas's share is put at 3 per cent. Although that produces a combined total of 109 per cent, spokesmen for the three manufacturers said they used different methods of calculation.

• The Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Howard Davies, said that UK interest rates would need to rise soon if the Government was to meet its inflation target. "It is no secret the Bank of England believes that interest rates will need to rise in the near future if we are to remain on course to meet the Government's inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less," he said in a speech prepared for delivery the Oxford Farming Conference.

• Lloyds Chemists, the subject of two £650m hids, said sales in the second quarter to December rose 8.9 per cent. Within that, chemists sales were up 3.4 per cent, although the company said pressure on NHS margins continued. The Holland & Barrett health food chain jumped 14.6 per cent, and a strong Christmas helped the new Health & Beauty drug stores raise sales by 6.6 per cent. Overall, first-half sales were 8.5 per cent higher. The takeover hattle between UniChem and Gehe, now nearly a year old, continued to hit profits, the company warned. Gehe said the statement further confirmed its previously stated caution towards Lloyds' trading position.

• Union, owner of one of the City's discount houses, said it would pass its final dividend for 1996 as a result of Bank of England moves to open up money market dealings to a wider range nf participants. The Bank's move "will have a significant impact on the group's future", Union warned. It was therefore "considering the future direction of Union and is examining alternative methods of releasing value for shareholders". The company also said there would be no profit contribution from last year's software offering in Canada.

• US factory orders fell 0.4 per cent in November, reversing part of a revised 1.1 per cent rise in October, according to the Commerce Department. Previous estimates had put the October increase at 0.9 per cent. The latest figure is hetter than the consensus forecast of economists looking for an 0.7 per cent drop, hut still represents the first drop in factory orders since a fall in August.

costs and reprimand

Jill Treanor Banking Correspondent

Ron Baker, Nick Leeson's boss before Barings collapsed, yesterday lodged an appeal against a disciplinary tribunal's decision to order for him to pay £7,500 in costs, and face a public reprimand over his conduct. The trihunal cleared him late last year of four out of five charges hrought against him.

The Securities and Futures Authority, which is still hringing charges against lan Hopkins and James Bax, two other former Barings executives, yes-terday said it would not appeal the tribunal's decision.

The decisions by the SFA and Mr Baker were made just hours before yesterday's deadline for appealing.

Mr Baker was reasonably content with what had gone before from working in the City. ... but he believes there are certain factual inaccuracies [in the

judgment] and he would like to

These relate to the one charge in which the tribunal found against him, the supervision of the proprietary trading activities of Barings, which led to the reprimand and the order to pay costs. In November, Mr Baker took

see them corrected."

the unusual step of publishing the result of the tribunal hefore the disciplinary process had

run its full course.
The tribunal ruled in Mr Baker's favour on four of the regulator.

Lindsay Hill, Mr Baker's five counts on which the SFA lawyer at Fox Williams, said the had huilt its case and allowed appeal related to a narrow him to escape a han from the aspect of the tribunal's findings. regulator's registration lists. which would have harred him

Both he and the regulator had the right to appeal within 10 days of receiving the written judgment from the tribuaal, beaded by Judge Colin Kolbert. The SFA now needs to ap-

point three judges to sit before an appeals tribunal and arrange a date for the case to be heard. This will detay publication of the official charges brought

against Mr Baker and also those faced by Mary Walz, another former Barings executive who has also escaped a ban from working in the City after reaching a settlement with the

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REAL VILLERY

Bespak investors can breathe easy

Peter Chambre has done a decent job at Bespak since moving over from Caradon to take the chief executive's post at the inhaler manufacturing group in May 1994. He has effectively cleared up the mess caused by an ill-fated contract with ML Laboratories and the mis-timed 1992 acquisition of Tenax, a US maker of plastic parts for medical devices. Yesterday's 46.5p jump in the shares to 527.5p on the back of better-than-expected half-year results to November is therefore well deserved.

The figures also show that he is capable of moving Bespak beyond the recovery phase to generate real growth, even if the 43 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £5.03 m on turnover up just a tenth to £39.4m reflected the benefits of some one-off factors.

The demise of the US patent over the ageing alhuterol asthma treatment (better known as Glazo Wellcome's Ventolin) led to the launch last January of three generic versions, all of which business Bespak won. Filling three new marketing pipelines, on top of those of existing customers Glazo and Schering Plough, helped valve sales soar by 28 per cent to around £15.4m in the half-year.

Meanwhile, sales continued to huild around Glaxo's Acuhaler, the second-generation dry powder inhaler launched in Scandinavia in 1995. Bespak's turnover in that product

alone more than doubled from under £2m to £4.5m in the six months as the drugs giant rolled the product out across Europe.

Mr Chambre says about half the firsthalf profits growth came from higher volumes inflated by these developments and concedes that growth will slow from here on. Even so, Bespak can look forward to cashing in on the continuing 6 per cent growth in the US asthma inhaler market and has plenty else to look forward to.

The two-year restructuring of Tenax is nearly complete. The husiness should be back in profit in the second half, uided by the delayed launch of a new product. There should also be further benefits from sprucing up Bespak's manufacturing efficiency, which, with hetter customer service and lower costs, is said to have delivered the other half of the first-half profits rise.

Bespak's chances of picking up the manufacturing for the Acuhaler's US launch in 1998 have been improved by Glaxo's decision to raise its maximum order with the group from 10 million to 15 million units a year.

Its credibility is also enhanced by the announcement that Roger Mann, finance director at Siebe, is joining the The only clouds are the switch to

non-CFC propellants in inhalers, which

could disrupt the market up to 2000.

and the half-year collapse in profits in

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Bespak: at a glance

Market value: £133m, share price 527.5p

7.20

1995

Share price

the relatively small personal care margins which ought to be better than division. But even on a prospective p/e ratio of 18, assuming full-year profits of £11m, the shares should have fur-

Amey thrives on PFI contracts

several companies to have made a killing from rail privatisation, having picked up British Rail's western region track maintenance husiness for a remarkably low £15m earlier this year.

Less apparent is Amey's ability to win Private Finance Initiative contracts when other contractors are hadmouthing the whole government exercise as slow, inefficient and hideously expensive. Amey's latest PFI scoop as part of a consortium behind a £370m scheme for a dual, three-lane motorway linking the M6 at Carlisle to the M74 120km further north in Scotthe aril infrastructure maintenance land - helped push the shares to their highest level since they were floated on the stock market in 1994.

British Rail this year. The first of Amey's r

Carrings per share (pence) 19.0

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

those scored under the traditional open tender system. Amey will also have to put up about £3m in equity funding, hut the deal is expected to be cash-flow positive from a very early stage as the Government, in the form of the Scottish Office, pays the con-

tractor what amounts to shadow tolls. The M6/M74 contract is the third PFI project landed by the Amey consortium in the past six months. It has Amey is best known for being one of also been awarded the £330m contract to design, build and operate the A19/A1 extension to the Tyne tunnel in the North-east and a £175m project to huild the 17-mile Croydon tram link system in the South-east.

These contracts effectively secure Amey's civil engineering workload for the next two years and provide valuable long-term facilities management and business. And with the Government's road-huilding programme at a virtual standstill, Amey is well placed to pick up road maintenance work. But the real kicker for investors is

company bought for just £15m from

The first of Amey's rail maintenance Analysis say the 30-year concession contracts with Railtrack does not come

1996

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to negotiate favourable terms if it has huilt up a strong track safety record. For the time being house broker James Capel is sticking with its 1997 pre-tax profits forecast of £13m, imdying a price/earnings ratio of just over 14 times with the shares up 21p at

The shares, as low as 1180 last year, have built up a formidable head of steam, and have further to go.

Margins suffer in car salvage

Buying and selling cars written off by insurance companies is hardly glam-orous work, but Universal Salvage is proof positive of the old adage about muck and hrass. Founder Cliff Bassett made a handsome fortune for himself over 27 years and since floating the company last year has turned a tidy profit for outside shareholders too.

After coming to the market at 149p in August 1995 the shares soared to a high of 286p last year although they have flagged since and yesterday closed 6.5p lower at 238.5p as the market focused on a potentially worrying decline in return on sales.

In the six months, if anything, Universal has been a victim of its own success with turnover increasing 24 per cent on the back of a 34 per cent inshould net Amey about £30m, or an ex-tra 10 per cent, in annual turnover at Amey should be in a strong position crease in the volume of cars sold in the previous year to 40,600. A lack of storage space for those higher numbers of cars meant they had to be pushed through the auction halls quickly and prices fell as a result.

That hit margins in the half-year to October and profit before tax rose only 4.5 per cent to £2.3m (£2.2m) before charging £700,000 in the previous period to cover the costs of coming to the market. A new auction and storage site at Sandwich in Kent has alleviated the problem and margins are expected to have bottomed out now, Another drag on Universal's return on sales, an increase in the proportion of cars sold in closed auctions to breakers' vards. has also stabilised, according to the company.

The key to growth at Universal, which already controls about 15 per cent of the 500,000 or so write-offs every year in the UK, is to acquire new contracts with insurance companies. With about three-quarters of sales relating to fewer than a dozen insurance companies, Universal is vulnerable to any one moving its husiness, A number of new contracts are thought to be imminent.

On the basis of house broker Charterhouse Tilney's forecast of £5m profit before tax for 1997, the shares trade on a prospective price/earnings ratio of almost 20. That seems to more than discount any margin improvement: and new deals. High enough.

Savills boosted by housing boom

Tom Stevenson City Editor

The booming housing market and a return to health for commercial property helped upmarket estate agent Savills to a bumper first half-year to October.

Pre-tax profits soared 64 per cent to £3m (£1.8m), although the chairman, Richard Jewson, warned the imminent general election might reduce activity in all of its markets.

An early beneficiary of the nascent recovery in the residential property market thanks to its relatively high exposure to the better end of the London market, Savills said the exceptional improvement in its first-half figures would probably not be repeated in the second balf to next April.

But Mr Jewson said: "With

good underlying economic conditions, rising prices in the residential markets and improving occupational and investor demand in the commercial markets, the outlook is positive."

Higher profits were struck from a 30 per cent increase in turnover from £18.5m to crease in earnings per share to 4.7p (3.0p), the interim dividend was raised by a third to 1p. Savills shares closed 2p higher at

Savills' profits have risen steadily since it dipped into the red in 1992 at the depth of

the UK housing slump.

Its confidence about mediumterm trends in the housing market chime with a number of recent industry forecasts of steady and sustained improvements in both prices and transaction volumes

Rob Thomas, housing analyst at Swiss investment hank UBS, recently predicted a cumulative 46 per cent rise in the average price of a house between 1995 and 2000. He estimates a 10 per cent rise this year and a similar rise in 1998 with London, as usual, leading the recovery.

His confidence is based on calculations that show house prices still well helow their long-term trend and due for a period of substantial "catching up". He also believes that a sea change in the outlook for inflation, and so interest rates, will mean a reassessment of the

£24.1m. After a 57 per cent in amount housebuyers are prepared to borrow relative to their salaries which could further fuel house price rises.

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Last November Savills increased its exposure to the huoyant central London residential market with the acquisition of George Stead. That deal doubled the number of Savills offices in London to 10. The offices have all been rebranded as Savills and take the UK chain to 31 outlets.

In the commercial market, Savills reported strong signs of an upturn with increased leasing activity in areas where the company is strong such as the Thames Valley corridor. Mr Jewson said there had also been outbreaks of rental growth in areas of high demand. Legal & General recently

issued a set of predictions for various asset classes this year. concluding that commercial property would outpace both gilts and equities in 1997.

L&G has pencilled in a total return for property of between 12 and 14 per cent this year compared with an expected return of only 4 per cent from a flat equity market.

UK Estates criticised as offer deadline looms

Patrick Tooher

The hostile, £21m takeover for Manchester-hased UK Estates took another acrimonious turn yesterday when rival property group Ashquay accused its directors of having a "thorough disregard for shareholders' interests" and of "mismanaging the company".

Ashquay also songht to increase the pressure on UK Estates by sticking to the 13 January deadline as the final closing date for its offer. The Takeover Code allows for Ashquay to extend its offer until 27 January.

The outcome could be close even though Ashquay has al16 per cent of its preference

"We helieve UK Estates shareholders have a simple choice," said Derek Tughan, Ashquay's chairman. "Prior to the announcement of the offers, UK Estates' ordinary shares had a value of just 22.5p; under the ordinary offer

they are presently valued at Shares in UK Estates closed unchanged at 27p, while those in Ashquay stayed at 38.5p. Ashquay also repeated its

charge that the target firm's management had rewarded itself despite "failing to enhance the value of the company's shares".

ready won over investors representing almost 38 per cent of highlighted UK Estates' ad-UK Estates' ordinary shares and ministrative costs, which last sue to fund the takeover.

year totalled £970,000, and the £530,000 spent on shares for an employee benefit trust. Last year pre-tax profits at UK Estates fell from £610,000 to £382,000.

Ashquay promised that the combined group would be prudently financed, with pro-forma gearing lower than that for UK

Ashquay has offered 10 shares for every 13 ordinary UK

Estates shares. UK Estates has rejected the offer, noting Ashquay is a small-

er company with net assets less than half those of UK Estates. It has also queried Ashquay's reasons for shortening the bid deadline, suggesting Ashquay might be unable to meet the costs of underwriting a rights is-

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He's 86, but Jimmy can't drag himself away from the City PEOPLE & BUSINESS from GEC, also after 33 years as chairman.

Congratulations in advance to Jimmy Herbert, Britain's oldest full-time working stockbroker, who celebrates his 86th hirthday on Friday. As a partner of Branston & Gothard, Mr Herbert still works from 7.30am to 4.45pm daily - "probably be-cause I'm an idiot," he says.

Not many people can re-member the Wall Street Crash of 1929. So what changes strike Mr Herbert as he looks back over his

"The sheer volatility of the market nowadays is amazing - movements up and down totalling 100 points a day seem common. The other truly staggering change is the technology. Companies give out so much information nowadays, you can practically find out the colour of the chairman's underpants at the push of a button," he says.

He has no intentions of letting up, either. "The City is still a great place. Although we don't meet on the floor of the House [Stock Exchange] any more, we still meet around the City, I would miss it enormously. I became a member of the Stock Exchange in 1943 and I've enjoyed it." "The 1974 crash was pos-

sibly the worst moment, looking hack. But one al-ways felt there was a way No doubt Mr Herbert will have plenty of memories to share with colleagues at his

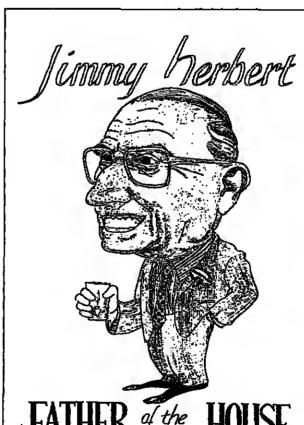
party on Friday in the Fox, a suitably traditional City watering hole just north of Finsbury Square. Ynppies, weep your heart out. George Mallinckrodt, president of Schroders, the most successful British merchant

hank to remain independent, has got his just deserts: an honorary knight-The honorary his comes because he is a German national, having been born and brought up there. In fact his full German title is

Mallinckrodt, and he has al-

ready been honoured by the

Georg Wilhelm von



Veteran broker: Jimmy Herbert can remember the 1929 Crash and is staggered by the amount of information available now

then Federal Republic of Germany in 1986 with the Verdienstkreuz am Bande des Verdienstordens, roughly translated as "a medal for services rendered".

Mr Mallinckrodt joined Schroders in New York in 1954 and in 1958 he married Charmaine Schroder, sister of Bruno Schroder, the family memher who sits on the bank's board and represents roughly 40 per cent of the bank's shares.

In 1960 Mr Mallinckrodt was transferred to London and he became a director in 1977. He served as chairman from December 1984 until May 1995, and together with chief executive Win Bischoff turned Schroders into a premier merchant banking and fund management house.

It seems ironic that a German and a South African have managed to escape the overseas predators while rivals such as Warhurg and

Kleinwort have passed into

overseas ownership. Mr Mallinckrodt is a fully paid-up member of the great and good, sitting on a host of committees. He also played a leading role in the Bank of England's attempt to save Barings, and sai on the Treuhand, the east German privatisation hoard, He'll be a hard act to follow.

Talking of which, so will Ian Carr, who is due to retire from Carr's Milling Industries after 33 years as chairman – a distinction he shares with Sir Arnold Weinstock, who recently retired

Chris Holmes, chief executive of the Carlisle-based food and engineering group. laughs. "Its just a coincidence. Ian is 68. The firm was founded by his greatgrandfather in 1831. He'll be replaced by David Newton, chief executive of Hillsdown Holdings until last

year." Mr Newton, a mere spring chicken at 54, will take over next September. Mr Carr will remain as non-executive vice-chairman until August

Mr Holmes says: "He's an active sort of chap. He's still the chairman of the North Cumbria Health Authority." Outside work, Mr Carr's main passion is golf. He's a member of the Royal & An-

cient, St Andrew's, and Silloth Golf Club, He will have to wait until September. when he stands down officially as chairman, before he has more time to practise reducing his handicap.

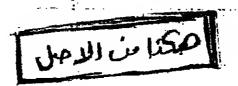
Honor Chapman CBE, a partner in Jones Lang Wootton, has been appointed a Crown Estate Commis-sioner. A challenging joh for a surveyor, as the Crown Estate is valued at over £2hn

and is the largest property organisation in the UK. The portfolio, which dates hack to Edward the Confessor, includes urban property in London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham and elsewhere totalling al-

most 120,000 hectares. The estate also owns around half the UK's foreshore and almost all the seahed out to the 12-mile

territorial limit. Although part of the hereditary possessions of the Sovereign, since 1760 all of the revenues from the -Crown Estate, which last year totalled £94.6m, have heen paid to the Treasury, in part to fund the Civil List. Mrs Chapman joins the seven other commissioners following the retirement of

John Wilicock



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market report/shares

Wickes makes shame-faced return after suspension FTSE 100 4078.8 -27.7 FTSE 250 4521.5 +4.1 **FISE 350** 2031:2 -10.5 seven-month suspension, after profits had been overstated by SEAQ VOLUME £51m, the shares touched 756.6m shares: 208.5p, closing at 196.5p 39,425 bargains

Gifts Index traded in line at 46.5p.
But for some half-hearted 93.32 Share spotlight may have performed even more dismally. With the company looking so vulnerable, even after its rescue rights is-MEPC sue, some speculators could not

MJJASDNDJ

resist the temptation to gossip about the possibility of a strike. Kingfisher, with the B&Q chain, was one name in the frame. Another was RMC, the building materials group which has long persevered with its 90-strong Great Mills operation.

There was, however, considerable scepticism about the likelihood of a bid. A deter-

Wickes, the disgraced do-it- mined bidder, it was argued, yourself retailer, made a would have appeared before shame-faced return to the the shares were relisted. stock market. Following a NatWest Securities suggested Wickes a sell above 200p.

The Wickes debacle involved profit over-statements spreading over three years. against the equivalent of Since then the board has been 417.5p. The nil-paid rights reshaped and a Serious Fraud Office inquiry instituted. But for some half-hearted takeover rumours the shares and RMC 22p to 976,5p.

The market suffered an acute attack of the jitters as talk of interest rate increases grew louder and New York failed tn build on Monday's early streogth. Tokyo's overnight slump was another disconcerting influence. It raised questions over the US bond market and weighed heavily on New York equities.

Footsie fell 27.7 points to 4,078.8 although supporting shares fared rather better with the FTSE 250 index up 4.1 to



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

Oils stole the show, demonstrating once again the ill-wind adage. A report in the Wall Street Journal highlighted the soaring cost of energy futures following forecasts of colder US winter weather colder US winter weather.

With crude prices moving higher oils needed nn extra encouragement. British Petroleum flared 9.5p to 691.5p; Enterprise Oil 4p to 639p and Lasmo 6p to 232.5p. British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, helped by further Gulf of Mexico expansion, jumped 50p to an 852.5p peak. Shell missed the fuo, off 7p at 998p.

Properties also ducked the oervousness. With inrecasts

pected uplift in the commercial and residential property markets the likes of MEPC, up 22p at 472p, and Brixtoo Estate, 7p to 213p, made headway. Slough Estates, seen in some quarters as a likely target for MEPC, gained 9.5p to 291.5p.

Legal & General, after Mooday's late excitement, set-tled 2.5p higher at 379p and National Westminster Bank continued to score from the round of analytical support, gaining 4.5p to 710.5p. Redland, the building materials group, slipped 14p to 345.5p. arousing fears it could be a Footsie casualty when the next still flowing about this year's ex-call-over takes place in March.

Rolls-Royce fell 6p to 251p
on Barciays de Zoete Wedd
reports on its Namibia exploPer, the sock maker rescued caution, Hillsdown gained 0.5p to 190.5p as its round of meetings produced positive commeous from SBC Warburg

but sell advice from UBS. GB Railways remained on the express line, gaining a fur-

by cautious commeots. Manchester Utd fell 13.5p to 674p and Sunderland 27.5p to 717.5p. Celtic crashed £100 to £425 and West Bromwich Al-bion lost £50 to £200, a two-day shares, fell 4p to 87.5p after it management. The shares fall of £80. Chelsea Village fell 2.5p to 121.5p. It has raised £885,000 by placing shares at 118p. On Ofex, Rangers pulled

118p. On Ofex, Rangers pulled up another 65p to 715p.

Eidos, the computer games group, gained 62.5p to 832.5p on US buying and Azlan, following its rights issue flop, edged ahead 11p to 581p.

On the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu World, takeo over would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu World, takeo over would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu World, takeo over would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu World, takeo over would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu world, takeo over would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu world, takeo over would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, the gold miner, jumped group, advanced 15 following a disclosu would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion, advanced 15 following a disclosu would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion would make a bigg or up to the mining pitch Reunion would make a bigg or up to the

12p as its major shareholder, Cattaneo Della Volta, is Vitol Eocrgy, sold 15 million shares, cutting its stake to 13.36 per ceot.

where Joseph Lewis, the rether 32p to 242.5p. tiring Bahamas-hased multi-Football shares were ruffled millionaire is a significant shareholder, slumped 12.5p to 81p as the final dividend was dropped.

> shares, fell 4p to 87.5p after it management. The shares announced a 75p placing to beld at 6.75p. raise £500,000.

World, takeo over last year, day All told, it collected would make a bigger profits contribution than had been ex-

Tradepoint, ruoning an order driven share trading facil.

ration; Fortune Oil eased to by Italian aristocrat Andrea firmly io the black. Following interim profits of £192,000 Union, the financial group searcher, forecast a full-Hardman & Co, the reyear's out-turn of £450,000 with £723,000 likely this year. Last mooth Pex paid £1.8m in cash and shares for Bridgedale, a maker of leisure socks. More deals are Abacus Recruitment, one expected and the group is

Finelist, the motor parts group, advanced 15p to 239p following a disclosure Motor 1,625,000 shares at 35.5p. It is unclear whether any buy-in stock came from a 1.4 million sale by Equitable Life on Friday. Burndene shares rose Ip to 36.5p.

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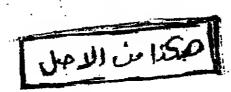
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Westwood casts

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Thristmas arrived two days early for Lee Westwood. Ever since finishing sixth on the European Order of Merit, Westwood had been hoping for an invitation to the US

The Augusta National authorities, who have no set criteria for inviting non-Americans. have not always been so quick to recognise an emerging talent from overseas. It is safe to say that there will be more than a few of the green-jacketed hrigade who will be asking "Where?", when the 23-year-old is announced on the first tee from "Worksop, England".

But Westwood's CV has gone before him and came with the endorsement of the European tour executive director, Ken Schofield. In 1996 Westwood rose from 258th to 64th in the Sony world rankings and shot up 69 places on the European money list. His maiden title came in a play-off at the Scan-dinavian Masters and he followed it up by outlasting Costantino Rocca, the current PGA champion, and Jeff Sluman, the 1988 US PGA winner, in a four-bole play-off at the Visa Taiheiyo Masters in Japan.

"I was screening the post for an Augusta postmark," Westwood's manager, Andrew Chan-dler, said. In fact, the invitation slipped through and was sent on to the player's home, arriving on the Monday before Christmas. It meant that another set of invitations, for Westwood's wedding to Andrew Coltart's sister, Laurae, which was due for the second Saturday in April, will not be sent out until the end of the

"He has never even been to America, let alone played golf there," added Chandler, who has been busy trying to get his client into a couple of tournaments that precede the Masters, Westwood, the son of B schoolteacher, has been busy on the pool table in the house he has moved into with Laurae thanks to his £436,693 season. "The pool table arrived the same day as the Masters invitation," Chandler said. "It was **NEW FACES FOR '97:** An invitation to this year's US Masters will help to put Worksop firmly on the golfing map of the world. Andy Farrell reports

hard to tell which he was more pleased about. The Masters is a fresh pair of eyes – Westwood three months away, he could play pool immediately.

"It would have been disappointing oot to get into the Masters after the year I had," Westwood said. "Winning in Japan proved I could play outside Europe as well as at home. I am really looking forward to it." he added, "especially with all this snow on the ground. I just want to be anywhere hut here.'

Westwood does not like to be idle long. Last year he played 37 times around the world, a heavy schedule by any jour-neyman's standards. "I'll probably go easy on myself and cut

'He has never even been to America, let alone played golf there'

it down to 35 this year," Westwood said. "I enjoy playing, and as soon as I don't I stop."

His Scandinavian win came on his 17th week on tour. At the half-way point, he phoned Chandler to say he had hit the wall. Chandler replied: "Well, make sure you make this weekend count." The manager adds: "Lee is a good listener, even if it does not look like it has gone in at the time. He knows he needs to cut down his schedule but he is not about to become a prima don-

na and only play 20 times." Before starting the season in Australia at the end of the month, Westwood and some Tour colleagues will practice in Spain with the Lindrick pro, Peter Cowen. Westwood turned to

had been with the same coach for seven years – produced a fresh impetus. Cowen got West-wood hitting the ball higher and

playing more aggressively.
The Spanish trip will include a visit to Valderrama, the venue for September's Ryder Cup. Those are two words Westwood, currently 11th on the qualifying table, knows he is go-

ing to hear a lot of this year.
"Yes, I am, hut I'm trying to
set my sights on just getting in the
Ryder Cup team. I'm hoping to win two tournaments and that ill lead to getting into the team.

"There is a lot of hype. It is one week and it is eight months away but people are already getting excited. Already I've read in one of the papers that we are not going to have a chance. You work all year and it makes you wonder why you bother if they are slagging us off already. It spurs you on, though."

This year's European team

should be one that features a few new names and in Westwood, Cohart, Darren Clarke and Paul McGinley, Chandler's ISM management stable could be well represented at Valderrama, "They are good friends bot there is a strong rivalry among them as well," Chandler said, "Lee is fearless. He likes a big challenge. He still has a sense of adventure about him and he has some good friends in Worksop who keep his feet on the ground."

Levitation may have been a problem after both Tom Watson and the Japanese legend Jumbo Ozaki made complimentary remarks after playing with Westwood. "It is always nice to have the really good players saying nice things about you. It gives you a lol of confidence. You must be doing things right. Last year was fantastic and if this year is half Cowen after missing five of his as good, it will be a great year."



حكنا من الاعل

Lee Westwood: Hoping for a Ryder Cup berth in Valderrama in September

Photograph: Allsport

Skerrett moves on to **Halifax**

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

The twin cornerstones of Wigan's most dominant packs could face each other for their new clubs in Super League next season.

On the day that Salford paraded their new recruits. Andy Platt and John Cartwight, Halifax did their best to upstage them by announcing the signing of Plan's former front-row pari-

ner, Kelvin Skerrett. Skerrett is joining Halifax on short-term contract running until the end of March. The 30-yearold Test forward, who has had surgery on both his ankles, hopes to prove his fitness and earn a long-term deal. "I won a lot in the game at Wigan and went as far as I could with them," said Skerren of his departure from Central Park with 12 months of his contract to run. "As they were in financial trouble, they agreed to end my contract so I could move on to other things."

Halifax's assistant coach, Sieve Deakin, said: "Any Super League coach would want Kelvin Skerren in their starting so this is a great day for us.

Wigan's loss is our gain." Plan, signed by Salford from the Auckland Warriors, said he had been approached to return to Wigan hut had heen im-pressed by the professionalism of Salford. He and Cartwright, the Australian Test second-row. also rejected the chance to go to Leeds, much to the delight of the Salford coach, Andy Gregory. "They are two of the best forwards in the world and will give us the experience we will need in Super League." he said. Salford have also signed the Welsh Commonwealth Games sprinter Peter Maidand, from Bridgend.

The Rugby League Council has agreed to set up a working party to look into the government of the game. One of its most troubled clubs. Bramley, is said to be close to finding a new home and ensuring its im-

mediate survival.



LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 29 DECEMBER

to be from the woman for the	JOST HARTI	6j9
MR JOHN GOX :	SOUTHFILLEC	597
MIL SHOOM CHARKERS	PAREC	591
MR S. KING	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	588
THE REPORT OF	REPERSON 17	586 E.
MR PAUL RICHARDSON	CINCINATI STORM	584
PAR STRICK INC.	DEPENCE NOVERS	583
MR NICK KNIGHT	KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD	582
MRR PONGER	DEPENDE YOUA	5811
MR M. RENNICK	WILD ROVERS	580
	REPSTAR CARDIT	580
MR ROBERT GREENHELD	THE GULLS	579
ME ANTREY BURNAM	WINELEDON STUPID HEADS	S78
MR DARREN GREEN	FOR THE AZURE	576
MR P FRANKENTAL	AND ENGINE	575
Tally Long and Polician and Assessment	WASH TOP ARMY	<i>57</i> 5 ~
MR D . ROBINSON	DOUBLE D	574
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MR GARRY HARROWS	IDI ALLSTARS	573
POR CE MEMBERS TO	The state of the s	_572
MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	572
MR D.R. KENNEDY	HAMMERS UTD	572
MR S.I. PERRY	THE GREAT ESCAPERS	571
MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	SANDLINGS STROLLERS	57 () .
COPWIN	NORVOOD	570
MRITAGEOX	WARDEN	570
MR STEVE PAYNE	NO FUTURE IN FUCRAY	569
MR KENTH WATSON	ELEMENTARY OPPORTUNITIES	569.
MINIC	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	569
THE RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	569
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MR R.A. FARNHAM	TORT	569
MC NOBE	HOO HA SERENADERS	569
MR SCOTT LYNEFF	IKNOW YOUR WIFE	569
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DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	IMPERIAL BATES	568
HR DERICAN FULLER		568
MR STUART BROADWAY	THE 3 MOUSEKEETERS	548
THOMAS	BAGGY BOYS IN STRIPES	566
MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN	GARFIELDS BOYS SECOND	566
HS CH. DOWN	THE DEALS RESERVES	566
MR DAVID ASHTON	THE LODGERS	566
MR DAVID	FORTRESS ROKER	
MAIN SELECTION	KENIS RAIDERS	566
MR KEN PLEASANT	INTER MALCOLN	566
HERE MALCOLA	KRUEGER F.C.	566
MR WILLIAM BARR	CONSTEN ROVERS	565
HE JOHN ROHAN		565
MR JOHN ROHAN	MONDAFIELD TUESDAY	565
ETEVERATNE	Superior and SECT	564

THE INDEPENDENT SINDEPENDENT oday we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game,

supported by Philips Energy Saver

Light Bulbs. The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 21 (Wk 21) column lists all points scored in matches played between Monday 30 December - Sunday 5 January inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from

Saturday 17 August - Sunday 5 January. Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday. The matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 29 December.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal = 4 points for a goalkeeperidefender clean sheet = 3 points for a successful assist = 1 point when a player is selected and plays = 1 point for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw
Lose 1 point for a yellow card Lose 3 points

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 5 JANUARY; WEEK 21 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 30 DECEMBER - 5 JANUARY

Fantasy Foothall managers and their teams for overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions are as previously published and are available upon

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Inependent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month wilt win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qual-

Bonneh Flowers Kharine Hitchco Ogrizzov Filan Sounboll Marryn James Poole Houh Schmeck Hislop Crossley Wrigh Beastan Pressma Coton Walker Miklos Walker Walker Miklos Walker Miklos Walker Walk Deson Winter Winter Winter South and McGratil Ethiogram McGratil Ethiogram McGratil Ethiogram McGratil Ethiogram McGratil Ethiogram McGratil Ethiogram Le Saux Coleman Hendry Petrosca Petrosca Petrosca Petrosca Minto Dauk Starw Minto Dauk Starw Winter Massall Short Watson Unsword Hollinger Hinchelid Johson Kelly Wetheral Johnson White Grayan Whats Babb Jones (R) Wingla Watson White Massall Jones (R) Wingla Watson White Massall Jones (R) Wingla Watson White Massall Jones (R) Wingla 7.0 7.2 7.7 6.7 4.4 3.5 2.4 11. 3.7 \$573W2317955 If you would like to know more about Philips range of lighting products, call 0181 686 (Fantasy Football questions cannot be ansa

Henman fights off the fatigue

DERRICK WHYTE

Tim Henman put jet-lag and fa-tigue behind him to progress to the second round of the Sydney International yesterday and admitted: "I just tried to forget what I'd been through."

The British No I arrived in Sydoey in the early hours before his first match against Renzo Furlan, having taken three separate flights from the Middle

He was broken in the first game but rallied to hreak the Italian in the next and went on to secure a 6-3, 6-4 victory just before midnight.

Afterwards Henman was relieved to have finally got his preparations for the Australian Open under way following a nightmare trip from Doha and a long delay for rain.

I just tried to forget what I had been through in the last 24 hours," the world No 24 said. "When you are confident and hitting the hall well you don't think about too much out on the

"My concerns before the match were mental and physical. I wasn't sure how I would feel and how focused I would be. Overall I think it was a good performance. Tennis-wise I hit the ball well."

The 22-year-old from Oxford was particularly glad to have bounced back after losing the first game to the Italian, ranked 15 places below him.

He said: "In the first game I had 40-15 hut then didn't play particularly well. It was a bad start to the match. But once I broke back in the second game of the match I felt pretty comfortable. I wanted to keep the momentum going this week."

The victory was a superb achievement by Henman following his tortuous journey to Sydney after his defeat by Jim Courier in the final of the Qatar Oren in Doba. After finishing

time, he went directly to the air-port to catch a 9pm flight, firstto Abu Dbabi and then on to

He then checked into a hotel for four hours and managed to fit in a work-out with coach David Felgate before catching a British Airways flight to Sydney,

landing at 6.30am local time.

After just a few hours sleep
Henman then went for a warmup but was frustrated by beavy rain. With the first-round matches delayed he eventually got on court at 10pm and wrapped up victory just before midnight.

Henman was due to face the former French Opeo champion Sergi Bruguera in the second round today after the Spaniard defeated his compatriot Felix Mantilla.

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was the most prominent victim of the day yesterday as the seeds tumbled out of the tournament. Half of the 16 men's and women's seeds lost firstround matches including the men's No 2 seed, Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, beaten -6. 6-0, 6-3 by Spain's Carlos

Sanchez Vicario, the world No 3 and top seed in the women's draw, lost 6-3, 6-3 to American Amy Frazier, ranked 33, in a match delayed by rain

and hit by high summer winds.
Jennifer Capriati defeated
her fellow American Chanda Ruhm and Yayuk Basuki of In-donesia beat Mary Pierce in straight sets. Monica Seles, winner of

the Australian Open four times, will be unable to defend ber title next week because of a broken finger. Seles broke her right ring finger in two places while warming up for an exhihition tournament last month and has been unable to play since 4 December. The French No 1, Cedric Pioline, has also withdrawn because of back

Results, Digest page 21



Winner by a hood: Supreme Star (right) is on his way to an appropriate victory in the Hood Selling Handicap over the similarly attired Al Helal at Lingfield yesterday. Despite a

Breeders digest some unpalatable truths

It is the question every punter's father dreads - "Daddy, where do raceborses come from?". A tricky one this, since there are plenty of people, even some who follow the sport closely, whose knowledge of the breed-ing industry which feeds our racecourses is painfully limited. and it is a traditional answer the one involving a gooseberry bush - which comes closest to the truth. Racehorses emerge from behind the clipped hedgerows and tree-lined avemies of Britain's stud farms, and for anyone wanting to discover a little more about life in the paddocks, yesterday's AGM of the Thoroughbred Breeders'

Association was the place to be.
Without wishing to generalise.

ey - which tend to rule out a significant percentage of the population. The men and women who arrived at vesterday's meeting were hardly a broad cross-section of British society, but the discussion which followed offered a fascinating insight into the issues and problems which exercise minds in what can be an obscure industry.

The implications of foetal sexing and artificial insemination, the latest infections from the United States, the rateable values of stud buildings, and the problem of bot-air balloons all received an airing, with the balloonists being found guilty of that ultimate crime, frightening the borses. Technology, mean-

gives a success pair of 20.7% and a profit to a 5.1 level stake of 538.40; S Sanderrs — 34 winners, 274 runners, 12.4%, -556.72; L Dettori — 32 winners, 154 runners, 20.8%, -533.92; G Carter — 30 winners, 201 runners, 14.8%, -525.03, B LEADING JOCKETS: B Holliambead — 48 winners, 488 rides, 19.3%, -5188.01; A Balley — 32 winners, 257 rides, 13.1%, -542.40; P Hasiam — 27 winners, 113 rides, 18.8%, -50.50; P Evans — 20 winners, 247 rides, 8.2%, -591.87.

SLINEERED FIRST TIME: Tes Party (2.00), Red Phunton (view, 3.30). Starting Fel-

low (visor, 3.30).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Golden Hadeer (3.30) won at Southwell on

warness at This LAST SEVEN DATS: Golden Hadeer (3.9)1 won at Southwell on Wednesday, Ultra Beet (1.30) wan at Lingfield on Thorsday.

LONG-DISTANCE ZUNNESS: Desert Love (3.00) has been sent 254 rules by R McKellar from Lesmahagow, Southchyde, Gynacrak Watermill (12.30) sent 156 miles by G Holmes from Newton-on-Rawellife, North Yorkshire: Aljaz (2.30) has been sent 156 miles by Miss Gay Kelleway from Whatcombe, Porset.

12.30 MALIBU MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,200 added 3YO 7f Pensity Value £2,916

Greg Wood listens to the producers of Britain's racehorses airing their thoughts

filly foals are worth, on average, about 40 per cent less than colts. Breeders are keen that such relevant knowledge should be freely available at bloodstock sales, but a representative of Tattersalls seemed less than convinced by their arguments.

In addition, of course, the meeting followed the rule that, whenever two or more racing professionals are gathered togetber, the British Horseracing Board shall receive a thorough going-over. Leading off with what he hoped would be seen there are certain qualifications with at least 90 per cent accu- as "constructive criticism" was between breeders, owners and required for a career as a breed racy, the sex of an unborn foal. Rhydian Morgan-Jones, the re-trainers on racing's powerful In-

mation for anyone buying - or selling - a pregnant mare, since the mantle of leadership and act the mantle of leadership and act now to redirect us to a prosperous racing and breeding industry." He insisted that, "contrary to any misguided message that might be assumed from the welcome surge in

bloodstock prices, all is not Lack of leadership from the BHB was a persistent com-plaint from the floor, while other speakers speculated on bow the voice of the breeders might make itself better beard. Morgan-Jones himself weler - specifically, land and mon- which is a vital piece of infor- tiring TBA chairman, who dustry Committee, although

his comment that this association represents "the major investors in this industry" merits closer scrutiny. In fact, there are only two groupings which put more into racing than they take out -owners, who are well-represented in racing's administration, and punters, who everybody ignores as long as the cash keeps flowing. Everyone else, from the breeder and trainer to the bookmaker, is in

it for the money, which can be worth remembering when the insults start to fly. This is not to say that the ma-jority of the audience at yesterday's meeting was anything hut thoughtful, experienced and wholly committed both to orses and rac ment, bowever, on the subject killing anything, perhaps? Perof fox-bunting and the possi- ish the thought.

bility of its imminent abolition, demands to be recorded.

"Young people, children," the speaker began, "often have their first experience of borses when they are taken on a pony to a fox-bound meeting. When

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Golden Touch (Wolverhampton 4.00) NB: Kalar (Wolverhampton 1.30)

that is no longer possible, where will their interests lie as they grow up? And what influences might they then receive from other children from industrial conurbations when they are at school?" breeding in general. One com- have fun around horses without

Australia slip to defeat again

Cricket

Pakistan recovered from a dismal top-order collapse to beat Australia by 29 runs in Hobart yesterday in a low-scoring World Series match dominated by the howlers.

Chasing Pakistan's seemingly inadequate total of 149 all out, Australia were dismissed for a paltry I20 on a lively wicket at Bellerive Oval. It was a remarkable performance by Pakistan after their top three batsmen, Aamir Sohail, Zaboor Elahi and Ijaz Ahmed, were out for ducks to leave them in disarray at 7 for 3 early oo.

But a spirited innings of 54, the highest score of the match. by Mohammad Wasim lifted his side to a respectable total that ultimately proved enough for his bowlers to defend.

The Pakistan captain. Wasim Akram, and fellow fast bowler Mohammad Zahid fully exploited a pitch that offered both movement and variable bounce to dismiss Australia in 41.3 overs.

Mohammad Zahid bowled at extreme pace to remove the all-rounder Greg Blewett and the leg-spinner Shane Warne, compensating for his occasional lack of control that cost three wides and six oo-balls. Wasim batsman Michael Robinson top-scored for Australian Country Akram, in contrast, combined his menace with relentless accuracy to claim 3 for 13 in eight overs.

A quick-fire century by Shivnarine Chanderpaul helped of an Australian Country XI in a limited-overs match in Toowoomha yesterday.

West Indies made 275 for 7 from 50 overs and then dismissed their hosts for 239 to rack up their sixth successive win. West Indies had lost their previous seven matches in a row in a disappointing start to the tour.

Chanderpaul's 123 was his second tour century. He was promoted one place up the batting order in the absence of Brian Lara, who was rested after making a return to form with a century in West Indies' sevenwicket win over Australia in the

start after their captain. Courtney Walsh, won the toss and

WORLD SERIES (Hobert): Paidsten 149 (Mohammad Wasim 54), Australia 120 (Weelin Akam 3-13). Weeling to the (PS Pos6); 2 Palestan (5-6); 3 Australia (5-4).

West Indies to extend their winning streak on their tour of Australia with a 36-run defeat Roberson 50mol. West indies 275 for 7 (5 Chanderpaul 123, 5 Campaire 139 (Martin 123) (Martin 12

RACING RESULTS

LINGFIELD

1.00: 1. SUPREME STAR (Dane O'Neil)
11-4, 2. Nothing Doing 15-8 favourite; 3.
Al Helal 10-1, 12 rts., won by 11/1 lengths,
2 lengths, 0' Hedgar, Chochessen, Totae E3.10;
£1.10, £1.10, £2.80. Dual Forecast: £4.10.
Computer Straight Forecast: £8.37. Tricast:
£42,74, Tho: £10,70. Non Runner: Dragon



1.30: 1. MISTY CAY (A Day) 5-2; 2. Broadgate Flyer 7-1; 3. Windborn 14-1. 5 ran. evers fev Masterstroke (4dh). 2, 1, (S Dou, Epsom). Tota: £2.50; £1.10. £2.20. DF: £17.80. CSF: £18-98.
2.00: 1. GREEN BOULEVARD (G Carter) 5-1; 2. Harmony in Red 10-1; 3. Bosterini Paritsi 12-1. 5 ran. 4-11 fav Nopelea (4th). 1½, ½, (J Berry, Cockerham). Tota: £5.30; £1.20; £3.10. DF: £17.10. CSF: \$37.94. Alter a stewards' inquery and an objection by the second to the winner, the placings remained unattered.

second to the winner, the placings remained unationed.

2.30: 1. CHATEAUHERAULT IS Drownel 1.4:1; 2. Double Empresso 2-1 fav. 3. Hello Dolly 15-2. 7 ran. 1/4, 8. (P Healem, Middleherm). Fotor: E21.80; E5.30, £1.30. DF: E25.10. CSF: £41.25; 3.00: 1. SHANGHAI LIL F Norton) 7-2; 2. Obersons Boy 12-1; 3. Sooby Texa 3-1 fav. 12 ran. 11/4, 11/4. (M Petherston-Godley, East Bies). Totale: £4.30; £3.00. £3.80, £1.40. DF: £72.70. CSF: £47.48. Thicast: £138.79. This: £68.00.

3.30; 1. PRAGEBOY (I Wealer) 4-1; 2. Sciesor Ridge 7-4 fav; 3. See Descrip 11-1. 6 ran. 2. 11/4. IP Hestam, Middleham). Tota: £3.70; £4.40, £1.30. DF: £5.80. CSF:

£3.70; £4.40, £1.30, DF: £5.80, CSF: Jackpot not won (pool of £4,710,87 carried forward to Wohernampton today). Placepot: £83.60. Quadpot: £23.00. Place 8: £34.46.

WOLVERHAMPTON HYPERION

World Series on Sunday. West Indies made a pour

chose to bat, losing opener Robert Samuels for one before Chanderpaul and Sherwin Campbell set about the Australian Country attack. They shared a 119-run partnership from 112 deliveries, Campbell going on to make 65. West Indies went into the match without their injured

pace bowler Curtly Ambrose, but still managed to keep the Australian Country batting lineup in cbeck with a part-time bowling attack. Middle-order with an unbeaten 50.

1 42 SEISERRY (28) Moderam Park Roomy VIII Playson 9 0 G Carter 8
2 346405- SUPERCHARMER (36) U Willers () O Mohoks 9 0 Arts Received 2
3 WEET AND SEE (5d Western O Mohoks 9 0 Arts Received 2
4 40020- ATTERUTE (36) West K Rausing R Guess 8 9 Described 15
52- PARM (22) Unith Western VI Warten 8 9 Performs 9
6 RUMBERTANCE (USA) (Or Carterne Wile) I Functions 8 9 Described 16
1 60- GROCKIN WATERWILL (NO) Carterne Wile) I Functions 8 9 Described 18
8 0 JUST RAUSEL (25) ORIGINATION SERVICES 8 9 Described 19 Performs 9
9 ROSE BURTON (R M West) TD Barron 8 9 Described 19 Descri 1996: Coachete 3 8 9 C Nutter 11-2 (Sr Man Prescritt 11 ran Profess Guerne Coachete 3 8 9 C Nutter 11-2 (Sr Man Prescritt 11 ran Profess Guerne Coachete 3 8 9 C Nutter 11-2 (Sr Man Prescritt 11 ran Profess Guerne Coachete 3 8 9 C Nutter 11 ran Prescritt 12 ran Prescritt 12 ran Prescritt 13 ran e, whose trainer recently had his first all-weather witner, wouldn't

1 00 MALIBU MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,200 added

Ľ	2.00	3YO 7f Penalty Value £2,900
1	5-	COLD STEEL (BS) (A A Perriey) W James 9 0 5 Senders 2
2		HANT OF VICTORY (Sir Thomas Planetor) M Bell 90G Facilities (5) 1
3	0.090-	MERIODZA (92) (Bid Delence Partnersho) D Murray Smith 9 0 Weaver 7
4		REEDS (Mrs Darts Hayres) Farsteine 9 0 D Harrison 4
5	0333-2	SKOLDROUGE (5) (Les Buckey & Maddeham Park Racing V) P Hastam 9 0
В	5-	SLENA CREX (12) U M Parezre T D Barron 9 0A Calasse 3
7	44806-	HEATHYMAROS PEARL (USA) (32) (LA Morgani R Hoffinsheed 8 9F Lynch (3) 8
В		NATIVE THATCH (84 Brown) W Tomer 8 9 T Sprake 5
		-8 declared -
_		

SETTING: 7-4 Stommungs, 7-2 Cold Steel, 5-1 Reeds, 13-2 Second Creek, 7-1 Heat Of Victory, 8-1 Heatingards Pearl, 12-1 Native Theorie, 15-1 Manyors, 1996; Contreta 3 8 9 C Nation 21-2 (Sir Mark Prescott) 11 Jun

1996; Concreta 3 8 9 G Noter 11:2 ISr Mark Prescrit 11 ran FORM GUIDE.

The Hastiam yard has just as strong craims of taking this second dorson with Sicurcouge after the Indian Rudge gathing was run out of it in the closing stages by Brutal Faritasy at Southwell last Friday. That, though, was over so furlongs. On his only previous attempt at the twis pip Sicurcouge faded into third behind Mudflap nere in August and the concreted COLD STEEL may have better prospects. Cold Steel is a well-connected cold and showed a certain amount of promise, despite numbing green, when title behind Aptitude in a seven-furlong Lecester maiden in October. It looked a fair note and he may need to make only normal improvement to figure. To say that Sitema Creek needed the expenence at Southwell 12 days ago is an understatement. Slowly away and than coming very wide into the strong to the strong in the session of the looked and the control of the service of the wasted this time. Today's extra furlang should also be a big help and he is one to beep an eye on. The three newcomers will have to be wetched in the betting and this pick could be Receds, who is out of a Green Dancer mans.

Selections COLD STEEL

TA GOT BALLEY CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3 500 artist REPortal

WOLVERH	METON	130 ty Value £2,433
12.30 Selberry 1.00 Siouxrouge 1.30 Captain Carat 2.00 Raheen	HYPERION 2.30 ALJAZ (nap) 3.00 Fleet Cadet 3.30 Golden Hadeer (nb) 4.00 Golden Touch	1 82004-3 CAPTAN CARAT (8) (D) (SR) IV Greates) D Nothels 6 10 0
GOING: Standard. DEAW ADVANTAGE: High from 0f to 1m 4I. STALLS: Stalls: 7f & 1m6f - outside; remainder - inside. Fibreaund, left-hand, real course. Course is north of town on A449. Wohverhampton station 1m, ADMISSION: Club \$15;		500000 NRTS MCMADERY (65) (Chr.s Baiger) 8 Sheri 4 9 1
Tattorsatis \$8 (OAP members of Diamond Curb \$4). GAR PARE: Free. SIS REGING: EXECUTE: TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS: J Weaver — 54 winners from 261 runners gives a success ratio of 20.7% and a profit to a \$1 level stake of \$38.40; S Sanders — 34 winners, 274 runners, 12.4%, \$56.72; L Dettors — 32 winners, 154 runners, 20.8%,		BETTINE: 7-2 Ultre Boot, 5-1 Krystal Max, 11-2 Keler, 6-1 Lulu, 12-2 Captain Caret, 12-1 Hovena Max, Little Borr, See Me, 14-1 Double Oscar, 16-1 Will To Win, 25-1 others, 19-95; Serse Of Priority 7.9 10 Mer Genore, 11-2 (D Michols) 13 ran FORM GUIDE Captain Caret was a tough sprinter on turf and his first attempt on the all-weather produced a fair fourth behind Arrangian Lass over five furlongs here at the end of last month.

Capitain Caret was a tough synther on turf and his first attempt on the all-weather produced a fair fourth behind Amergon Lass over fine furlongs here at the end of last month. Five days later he want to Lingfield and stepped up on that with his third to Ultra Beet over this top, bearine a length and a heaft and a length. On 4th worse terms Capitain Caret should be held, yet whether he is or not a better case can be made for Krystal Max and MALAR. Last season Krystal Max picked up where he left off the year before and won his first hos starts at Ungfield [3]. 7th and he showed a welcome return to form with his strong-finishing neck second to Arry Leigh over five furlongs here on Soturday after being denied a clear run. Third-placed Boffy hed finished in from of Capitain Caret here on his previous run and this would appear a fine opportunity for krystal Max, Kelar's form may not be quite as good, but what makes the eight-year-old such a tough contender in these all-weather sprints is his fast starting. He may be able to show this stronger field a clean pair of heels in his present mood. The onco-raced table is a nicely-bred filly who was quite highly-med in what was probably a fair field of mederns at Ungsied in early October. Sir Mark Prescrit has had a touch or two here in the past, so she'll have to be watched in the betong.

Selection: NALAR

[GGG] LAFFA HANDICAP (CLASS C) (DIV I) £7,500 added 1m 1f

Ŀ	2.00	79yds Penalty Value £5,251.
1	14304	PATER NOSTER (136) (The New Window Factory) John A Harris & 10 0
2	041031-	SOUTH EASTERN FRED (25) (CD) IS E (Secures) H Colongrage 6 10 0
3		RAHEEN AUSA) (11) (C) (Elephoer Netary) W Turner 4 9 11 D Sweeney (5)
4	211030	CELESTIAL CHOIR (60) (C) (Mrs Carde Syles) J L Erre 7 9 11 O Pears (3
5	356001	QUEEN OF ALL BROS (34) Llory Amous R Boss 8 9 7
8	240031	ROYAL ACTION (50) (E Carter) J Barles 4 9 3
7		TEA PARTY (USA) (43) (C) (A J Richards) in Currengham-Brown 4 8 11
B		MONTECRESTO (202) (Rat Guest) R Guest 4 8 9Lincy Brown (7
9	63/1400	DOCTOR BRAVIOUS (85) (C) (Luceno Gauce) M Bes 4 8 T

SETTING: 7-2 Queen Of All Birds, South Eastern Fred, 9-2 Tea Party, 6-1 Rabees, 6-1 Calestial Choir, 8-1 Doctor Bravious, 10-1 Patter Nosier, 11-1 Royal Action, 20-1 Montecrists.

1996: Bernard Seven 4 9 4 I Wasser 14-1 IC Britan) 13 neh
FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

All-weather racing at Wolverhampton brings out the best in TEA PARTY, who has run block
in France (including a Listed risc) since she failed by a neck to bear Marisur over course
and distance in early October. That was Tae Parry's third and best run round here so, all
though she's bear raised 6th, she might have the necessary improvement in her, especially as she's birrieved for the first time. South Eastern Fred is one of lour that won last time
out, but he't have to be better than ever to win again as he's gone up 10th for beating North
Reef here. At least that win was in a handicap, whereas Queen Of All Birds' Lingfield win
was in a conditions rect, while Raiseen and Royal Action have more to do after their respective wire in maddens here and at Lingfield. Queen Of All Birds has firished numer-up in
a handicap on Southwelf's Fibresand and should cope with this surface, while Raheen, who
still has norm for improvement, again wears the birnkers that he wore for the first time hare
11 days ago. Dector Bravious ran moderately in urt handicaps last season but comfortably won a madden on it's course a year ago and he can't be nied out, while Calestial
Choir is a tough and genuine mare from an in-form yard but nine fundings could be on the
short side for her these days.

G GO HOLLAND FINNEY & ASSOCIATES HANDICAP (CLASS D)

Ŀ	<u> 2.30</u>	£5,000 added 5f Penalty Value £3,420
1		RANSEY HOPE (64) (CD) (C O Barber-Lorrax) C Farricust 4 10 0
2	344450	DAMDE FLYER (149) (D) (Dandelon Distriction Ltd) O Arbuthos 4 9 12_D Criticies (D) :
3	000041-	MASTER OF PASSION (26) (D) (& Mrs Michael Nurse) J Eustace 8 9 11 D Streemay (5) 2
4	£022009	SHADOW JURY (15) (CC) (Mo Jearne Crepment D Crepment 7 99 1 Chemock 7 1
5	430014	CHEMICAST (84) (D) (Cayton Bigley Partnesship Ltd) J L Eyro 4 9 8
6	05/641-4	AMENGTON LASS (4) (CD) (M J Higgins) P Evans 4 9 8 S Sanders !
7	005040	LORD SKY (25) (CD) (Ray Balley) A Bulley 6 9 5 G Carter (
В	50025-3	ALSKZ (4) (CD) (Blackham And Gould Partnershot Mass Car) hellenay 7 8 2 J Quinn (
9	000003-	SOTOMAN (NOL) (11) Tim Deard P Feigure 4 7 10 J Brown (7)

3.00 BASE SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m 100yds Penalty Value £2,433

| DOUGLIST | Penalty Value £2,433 | DOUGLIST | DOUGLIST

BETINE: 7-2 Galapino, 4-1 Bon Secret, 8-2 Spencer's Revenge, 5-1 Fleet Cadet, 9-1 Carmoss, 11-1 Lock Style, 14-1 Miss Charlie, El Bardador, 16-1 Welsh Melody, 25-1 others.

1996: Maple Bay 7 8 12 P Roberts 11-4 (A Balley) 13 ran
FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE
GALAPINO ended last sesson on a respectable note – fourth of 19 behind Kristal Breeze at Brighton for Che Brittan – and, provided he's not gone downfull in the meantime, he should be able to make the most of the drop into a select. He's read ingine on the all-weather than he is on turf and most of these would be pushed to match his all-the-way win from Nidta's Star here last, February. Northern Fleet hasn't rised on the Flat stree August 1995 but comes here lighting fit from a spel of hunding, He won at Lescoster two races ago and than into the gambled-on, Barney Curley-trained My Man in Dundalk at Hereford. Spensour's Revenge was beaten eight and a half lengths when Bon Secret won at Lingfield Lind amonth ago but is 7th better off and his recent second to Loseph's Wine in a Southwall claimer suggests he will make more of a roce of it today. Carmosar's efforts in middens early lest year suggest he is capable of winning a race of this son, while Westen Melody is a proven all-weather performer who can make her presence fait provided she's not bedly in need of the run.

3.30 JERICHO HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 6f 166yds Penalty Value £3,420

| Pernatty Value £3,420 | 150 | 160 | Westman | R Holinshead 6 10 0 | F Lynch (2) 2 2 10500 | R000 MUSIC (25) (NR I Idruson | M Heaglar 6 9 9 | A Cullinus 3 2 253114 | SEAMONIT (75) (7) (7) Currington | Barris 7 9 6 | J. Quint 1 4 33503-0 | RED PHANTON (4) (C) (NE GRAN Sewan 5 Motor 5 8 2 | M Wighest 6 V COU4-6 EVEZOR REPO (A) IT Centes) N Librardon 5 8 11 | D Britishia (5) 8 2 25033 | STERLING REPUBLION (179) (P F Moore D Williams 4 8 7 | D Harrison 7 V O 1001-1 | SOLDEN HADEER (7) (Four lays Racing Paruessha) M Ryan 6 6 7 (Mag) | A Clark 4 100/4 | HADTONE REQUIND (7) (P) (Sprit de Corps Recong 8 Bough 9 7 10 | F Northal 9 00/06/ | SCOTTISH WEDDING (1,007) Mechanan, Reynolds 2 Dearl V Well 7 7 10 LI Branklit (7) 9 | BETTING: 2-1 Colden Hedder, 9-4 Beastmant, 4-1 Northal, 6-1 Sperting Fe fore, 12-1 Bad Phantom, Rood Music, 14-1 Evezio Rufa, 18-1 Rood Mesic, 20-1 others.

Notified has only ever won on the all-weather here, which is somewhat surprising given his ability on turf. He has made the frame several times and was far from diagraced in last year's chester Cup when a numinison eighth of 18 behind Ment. But 12 futorigs-plus handscaps have are his specialist medium and it says much for his suspellity to the sand that four of his five course wins have been gained over a mile and a half, which would seem the shoulder minimum, given his staying provides. He won off handicap maris of 72 and then 80 here last February and so he has every chance off 73 assuming that his 12-futling such here a month 80, when a staying-on fifth to Petico Boards, has brought him to concert, but preference is for GOLDEN HADEER, who won by 17 lengths over two miles at Southwell last Wednesday and it would seem that staying races on the all-weather have opered up a new world of opportunity for Mack Ryan's six-veer-old, who enjoyed limited success over shorter trips on turf. Golden Hadeer made all over 14 furiongs at Southwell strate outings ago but was alterwards only third to Reserve Invitrier snoot over 12 furiongs here. He cannel of the season, is a one-pacer with an each-way chance, while Beacaniset cats on this surface and must be respected on his September-October whis at Chester and York.

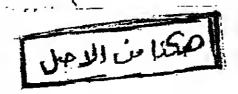
Sefection: GOLDEN HADEER

4.00

JAFFA HANDICAP (CLASS C) (DIV II) £7,500 added 1m 1f
79yds Pensity Value £5,251
151001
RESEL COUNTY (22) (Shoutine to Ceam Concessionaria A Baley 4 9 12 _____ D tiges 6
132030- SUPER NICH (53) (C) (C Harmond P Howing S 9 7 ______ F Notes 1, B
300413- Dute VALENTRO (43) (C) UE Beg R Holinshed 5 9 6 ______ D Settline (5) 4
232004- SECOND COLOURS (UEA) (131) (C) (D) IC R Rect M Pape 7 9 3 ______ D Rection 3
553062- NORTH REST (25) (Storefore Limited) Peance 8 9 1 ______ M Mighins 2
6 051634- CEPEZ LE PASSAGE (13) (CD) (A / Richards) X Cumingsam-Brown 6 8 13 _____ T Symbol 7
400333- BARREL OF HOME (12) (CD) (Pater J Weston II Leye 5 8 7 _______ J Brown 7
8 050000- TOM MORGAN (15) (Nactional Winter) P Wilson 6 8 3 _______ J Quin 9
9 002520- GOLDEN TOUCH (USA) (12) (C) (D) (Nat Rig Godfrey) D Conflore S 8 0 _____ 8 Sandroll 6
8ET(INC 3-1 Barrel Of Hope, 4-1 Duke Valentine, 9-2 North Reed, 6-7 Bahol Cramby, 8-1 Caller (5)

BETTING: 3-1 Barrel Of Hope, 4-1 Duke Valentine, 9-2 North Reef, 6-1 Rebel County, 8-1 Cade: 19 Passage, 19-1 Second Colours, 11-1 Super High, 12-1 Golden Touch, Tour Morgan

Passage, 19-1 become sometime and appearance to the passage of the



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Norwich

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Man Chelera West 252 Feb.

Gibbs to captain Wales for the first time

Rugby Union

Scott Gibbs will captain Wales for the first time when he leads the national side against the United States at Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday.

The Swansea centre takes over from the Cardiff hooker Jonathan Humphreys, who has decided not to appeal after receiving a seven-day han following his sending-off in Sunday's European Cup semi-

Garin Jenkins has been elevated from the replacements hooker wins his 31st cap. Barry Williams, of Neath, is the new replacement hooker.

Wales' coach, Kevin Bowring, said: "I have used this as an opportunity for someone to gain personal development from the situation, rather than gn in a tried and trusted captain

Gibbs has played just three Tests after returning from rug-by league with St Helens.

Bowring added: "I have been impressed with Scot's focus, bench to play instead of attitude and discipline. His con-Humphreys. The Swansea tribution has been impressive since he returned from rugby league - both on and off the

> Bowring felt that Humphreys had been "very sensible" to drop his appeal against his suspension. The 27-year-old hooker said: Although bitterly disappointed to be sent off for the first time in my career I have decided not to appeal against

"As captain of Wales, I am mindful of the need to set an example and will accept the adjudicator's decision, even though it is very painful to take.

By choosing this route, it allows the Welsh team to prepare without any interruption for the game against the USA and this must he my ultimate

The flanker Ian Smith will miss the opening match of Scotland's Five Nations' Championship after breaking his thumh while playing for Gloucester.

Smith had hoped to recover roles at least for the remainder vision strugglers. Moseley are to from the injury suffered in a of this season. The former England flanker lines up against An-Pilkington Cup game against glo-Welsh Cup apponents Leeds last month in time for Scotland's opener against Wales wansea tonight, among six at Murrayfield. But Smith, who has won 20 Scottish caps, had to uodergn surgery to pin the

removed until the day of Wales match in two weeks' time. It will be the first full Scottish international Smith has missed since the 1995 World Cup finals. Andy Robinson will combine jured.

his Bath playing and coaching

broken bone and it will not be

Bath internationals on show. "It is important I maintain my fitness," said Robinson, who on Monday succeeded Brian Ashton as Bath's full-time head coach. "I am needed as cover for our other open-side flanker, Nathan Thomas, and will need to be ready if Nathan got in-

Courage League Second Di-

Offers mounting up for Greening

be docked two points for playing

an unregistered player following

a dramatic about-turn. Moseley

have admitted they made an ad-

ministrative error by playing lock Andy Freke io their defeat

at Bedford in November, while

he was still registered with his first

club Wnodrush. English Profes-

sional Rugby Union Clubs Ltd

announced two weeks ago they

would not punish the Midlands

side, but the Rugby Football

Union's competition sub-com-

mittee have now overruled them.

The directors of Gloucester will meet next week to discuss how to hold un to their young hooker Phil Greening, the subject of several big-money offers. Less than a year ago, when

he was still a relative onknown.

Greening turned down an offer of £85,000 a year to join Rob Andrew at Newcastle, Since then the hurly 21-yearold has made his full England debut, establishing himself as the country's No 2 hooker, and

becoming an even hotter property. Greening's agent, Mike Bur-ton, the former Gloucester and England prop, said he has had offers for the hooker from Saracens, Newcastle, Wasps, Harlegoins and Richmond, who

are all funded by millionaire backers. "I have got a lot of offers for him and I have informed Gloucester of them," Burton said, "We will have to sit down and discuss his future later in the

Gloucester's directors will discuss Greening's situation at a board meeting next Monday. They are likely to he torn between the desire to keep their young talent and the temptation to sell him to fund the recruitment of more players.

"We wouldn't want him to leave." David Foyle, the board chairman, said yesterday. "We haven't had an official offer but gather there may be something we could consider at our board neeting on Monday."

Greening, who is Gloucester born and bred, has always said he wants to stay at Kingsholm and is not in the game for the money. "I'd rather play for Gloucester for 10p than leave home," he nace said, But as the stakes rise with his own meteoric ascendancy, the temptation may become too much.

Crisis club Llanelli have announced they will hold an extraordinary general meeting at their Stradey Park ground on 29 January.

The club committee preempied a call for such a meeting from many of their 4,000 members, following the collapse of a £3m investment package from the businessman Mel

man and a former Wales can at union and league, may have to face a call to stand down, along with the committee and trustees.

Gallagher admitted: "Our problems will be explained to the membership but it is obvious that times are difficult for everyone. When we look back at the season it will be seen as the nne of the most disastrous in the history of the game."

The club need to stage home matches to bring revenue in and have rearranged their First Division match against Cardiff for Wednesday, 26 February.

England's leading clubs may have a couple of final demands as their dispute with the Rugby Football Union extends into a third year. Representatives of the Courage League One and Two teams met yesterday in separate locations to scrutinise the small print of the Rugby Football Union's draft agreement which English Professional Rughy Uning Clubs recommended for

acceptance last month. There could be a signing in the next few weeks that would mean the creation of a joint Epruc-RFU company and a truce in the feud. But Enrue are expected to push for yet another change in the promotion-relegation situation between divisions One and Two.

They want only two teams relegated instead of four. There is a move to keep the First Division at 12 teams, with two relegated and two promoted.

£6.25m deal for Gascoigne

Football

truths

ALDHIAD EDMONDSON

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West end in the ten 1.30

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12 23

Rangers vesterday dismissed claims Paul Gascoigne has been offered a £6.25m golden-handcuff deal to remain with them until the end of his career. The Ibrox club described Gascoigne's reported five-year deal with a reputed annual salary of £1.25m as "sheer speculation".

Archie Knox, the assistant manager, said; "It's not true. We have to contend with stories like this all the time. When there is something to be announced we

Gascoigne's current deal with the Scottish champions expires at the end of next season. In 1995 Rangers manager, Walter Smith, paid the Italian club Lazio £4.3m to sign the player on a three-year contract.

The controversial England midfielder has been a massive success at Ibrox, helping the club to a league championship and Scottish Cup double in his first season during which he scored 19 goals and won the Scottish Player of the Year

Gascoigne will be 30 in May and a number of English clubs are keen to take the rejuvenated former Newcastle and Spurs player hack sooth. However, whom he has credited for re-English clubs shied away from yet," Toshack said. him because of fears over his fitfaith by signing a new deal.

Meanwhile, Rangers' extenhape of recovering from flu in time to face Aberdeen at Ibrox this Sunday.

The Premier League leaders played Hibernian last weekend under protest ofter failing to have the game postponed, despite presenting doctor's certificates for 28 players. Some, such as Brian Laudrup, Erik Bo Andersen and Ian Ferguson, played despite being unwell, and Knox said yesterday; "The players are all off for another day and we'll see what condition they are in when they return to-

John Toshack arrived at Deportivo La Coruña's Riazor stadium yesterday to find it daubed with graffiti criticising him. "Toshack go home," read the graffiti, which was written in English and echoed a similar protest made against Barcelona's Bobby Robson last

On Monday the Welshman appeared to announce his intention to leave the club at the end of the season. But he tried to limit the damage done to his already poor relationship with Deportivo fans at a press conference yesterday.

He said: "The supporters are always right, they pay, and so we get paid. Saying they've been unjust with me is not an

He claimed his initial remarks had been misinterpreted. loyalty to Rangers boss Smith, ends I could be on the beach, or at a hullfight, or playing viving his career when many top golf. Nobody's spoken to me

Manchester City, Blackburn ness, and may wish to repay that and Sporting Lisbon have been named in the Spanish press amnng clubs interested in sesive list of sick players have been given another day in bed in the Liverpool and Wales striker, although Manchester City would now seem to be out of the running.



Schumacher doubts he can win title

Motor racing

terday that he remains sceptical about Ferrari's ability to propel him to a third Formula One world title in the coming season.

The German, speaking at the unveiling of Ferrari's latest vehicle at the team's Fiorann test track in Maranelln, was cautinus ahout Ferrari's prospects for the new season, which starts in eight weeks' time. "My real

the championship and put pres- Barnard, the Italian team's model, showed several changes, wait another year to attack the sure on the Williams team or British chief designer, that it was Barnard said the most notable title, Williams Jacques Vilany other that sets the pace, or more important to meet the were a fully raised nose and leneuve believes this season the from them, but I cannot predict that we will he champions.

"To be honest, I think this. year we are looking for reliability and a hig improvement on last year, but the real championship for us should come in 1998."

Schumacher, whose new contract keeps him with Ferrari first grand prix in Australia on until 1999, was nevertheless impressed by the new Ferrari F310B nn his first close look at hope is that we can compete for it. He supported the view of John

SPORTING DIGEST

NBA: Chicago 102 Uran 89; Portland 88 LA Lek-ers 84; Golden State 101 Charlotte 109. MEN'S KORAC CUP; Ans Salonika (Gri 77 Be-

Andrew Golota, the heavyweight boxer in-famous for twice being disqualified in bouts with Riddick Bowe for hitting low, pleaded gully yesterday in a Pollish court to a charge of assault on a young man during a 1990 disco brawl in Golota's Pollish hometown of Wiodswek, Golota decided a second charge of imbery with

Reckethall

car's launch with a reliable competitor than to experiment with innovations. However, Barnard already has revisions and modifications planned. Some may be mate, Eddie Irvine, who failed introduced after the eight weeks to finish 10 times last season, nf initial testing, which start to-day and end before the season's

9 March. The new car, an evolution of most difficult I have ever had to Barnard's unreliable and trnublesome, but adventurous 1996

designed to improve stability. aerodynamics and the highspeed handling of the car. Schumacher's British team-

said he wanted greater reliability and more testing opportunities. "I don't want another year like the last and that car was the work with," he said.

While Ferrari may have to

Alex "Humcane" Higgins, who begins his quest in Blackpool on Thursday to qual-rly for the World Champoroship, yesuerday appeared before magistrates at Stock-port denying causing a breach of the

ace at a hotel in Gatley where he has

said the man who was second to Damm Hill, his former teammate, last season. "There is only one spot better I can go and I will have to work hard to make sure I get that spot." Of Hill's chances this term

Tennis

with Arrows, the Canadian said: "I dnn't think the whole package is ready to win - although I'm sure they could surprise us nnce in a while."

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL Mon's singles that rounds 8 Block Carn for \$5 argum farm (see 16 feet). Printer Laus in R Framberg Russ 2-6 6-3 7-6; J Sanchez (Sei b) is Haras (Man 3-6 6-4 6-3; M Rasman (see) b) J Sanchez (Sei b) I A Ras (Man 3-6 6-4 6-3; M Rasman (see) b) J Sanchez (Sei b) I A Ras (Man 3-6 6-4 6-1; S Brugoen (Soi b) I A Ras (Man 15A) 6-4 6-1; S Brugoen (Soi b) I F Man 15A (Sei A-6 8-3; A Vortea (Port) by P hands (12 Rop) 7-8 6-3; T Woodbadge (Jass) by M Forsers (SA) 2-6 6-0 6-3; P Hasman (Reth) by M Woodforde (Jass) b) C 7-6; T Hammin (Bill b) R R Furlan (t) 6-3 6-4. Weather's singles first mated: J Lagartol (LiS) b) C Rubon (LiS) 6-3 4-6-6-3; C Paymond (LIS) by A Suggiona Japani 6-1 6-0; R MoQullan (Jass) b) C Rubon (LIS) 6-3 4-6-3; C Paymond (LIS) by A Suggiona Japani 6-1 6-0; R MoQullan (Jass) b) B Scrutz (Mac 16-13-6 6-7; Second mated Y Baska (Indon) b) M Pietre (Pri 6-4 6-4; A Frazer (LIS) by A Sanchez Vicano 6-3-6-3; Major (Zhou b) S Publawski (Fri 6-2 6-1; M Hange (Swint b) S Appelmans (Ber) 6-3 3-6-6 1.

NEW ZEALAND MEDE'S OPEN (Ascaland) Singles first fround: A Bonaceugui (Sp) b) In Carleto (Soi) 6-4-6-2. M Ras (Chie) or It A James (Mor) 6-2 6-3; C Padel (Norusia (Sa) b) In Carleto (Soi) 6-4-6-2. M Ras (Chie) or It A James (Mor) 6-2 6-4; C Woodbirf (US) by S Sanchen (No. 7-6-6-4; C Woodbirf (US) by S Sanchen (No. 7-6-6-4; C Woodbirf (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-6-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-6-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-6-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-6-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-6-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-6-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-6-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen (No. 16-7-6-7-6; J M Gambol (US) by S Sanchen

with the championship in mind."

Norwich take Rocastle on loan

Football

Norwich City have signed the former England international David Rocastle on a month's loan from Chelsea.

The 29-year-old midfielder. who has been languishing in the reserves at Stamford Bridge this season, is expected to go straight into the Canaries side with a knee miury.

Walker, has also gone back to his former club to give a trial to Hayward, one of nuly twn rethe Everton reserve defender maining directors fullowing the Neil Moore, while the striker

Ade Akinbiyi has completed his £250,000 move to Second Division Gillingham after agreeing personal terms and passing a medical yesterday.

Bournemouth have called in administraturs after a wind-ing-up order over unpaid tax was delayed in the High Court. The Second Division club have debts of £2.5m and owe for Saturday's trip to Southend, £231,000 in PAYE, but the with Andy Johnson struggling court appearance in Liverpool ith a knee injury. was postponed after the club asked for more time.

Majnr shareholder Norman resignation of five others since

Christmas, has put in £250,000 in a bid to save the club.

The acting chairman, Brian Willis, admitted a Salisburybased firm of accountants had been called in to act as administrators. He said: "We have to restructure the cluh's finances in the next few weeks and make nurselves more attractive to potential investors.

We have spoken to three or four people who have shown interest in buying the club or investing in it, but we don't want tn sell players.

"The directors have resigned because any new investor would want to bring in his own men."

rousn nomeown or windswerk. Solida denied a second charge of robbery with the use of a dangerous weapon. The World Boxing Council has named Mexico's Roardo Lopez 'boxer of the year' after he defended his straw-weight title four times in 1996, winning all the bouts by knock-out.

by Nisca-Out Scotland's Kerth Knox will face Adey Lawls. from Bury, in Glasgow on 27 January for the vacant British flyweight title.

SOUTH AFRICA TEAM (v India, Third Test, Jo-hennesburg, 15-20 Jenueryt: W J Conce Icapti. A C Hudeon, G Kirsten, A M Bacher, D J Cultaran, B Mackiffan, S M Police, D J Richardson Iwiti. 1 Nuceror, A A Donald, P R Adems. 1. Nuesnor, A A Donald, P R Adems, SupERSPORT SRRBS, (Neonday, final day of four): Durbare Note: 282 and 349 for 7 dec; Free State: 160 and 312 for 9 (D Jordam 61, 6 fuperaar 93, P J I, Radley Stino), Match drawn. Port Elizabeth: Western Province 401 for 2 dec and 228 for 5 dec (J H Kalls, 79, H O Arkomon 102ho); Eastern Province 300 for 9 dec and 331, for 5 H C Wessels 179, O J Calagana 89, Eastern Province won by Swa wickorts.

Football

The Football Association requiry into last month's not at Bristol City will take place at Ashton Gatte on 22 January. City have been charged with failing to control spectators after the crowd violence sparked off by Peter Beadle's injury-time equaliser for Bristol Rovers on 15 December. Brian Horton, the Huddersfield manager, has moved to ease a goalkeeping in-jury casie by signing Middlesbrough's Alan Miller on a month's loan. Tony Notman darnaged a nametring during Sat-urday's FA Cup tie at Queen's Park Rangers and joined the first-choice keep-er Steve Francis on the sidetines. Derby County are giving a trial to Marino Rahmberg, a striker dish club Degenors IF.

Motherwell yesterday signed the strik-er Owen Coyle in a £350,000 cash-plus-player deal with Dundee United. The 30-year-old Republic of Ireland in-**Rugby Union** Nottingham have added two more Ca-nadian internationals to their ranks. The No 8 Ian Gordon, 30, has more than ternational has agreed a two-year con-tract, with the Fir Park midfielder Jamie 30 caps to his credit and the 24-year-old Brian McCarthy, capped twice, plays in the second row.

U.C.T., With the Fir Park midfielder Jami Dolan going to Tannadice in exchange TRANSFERS: Kowin McAllister (winger Inhom an 10 Faith (£25,000); John Trajfor frowerd Litton to Cameridge Ind lines). NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Postponsed matches from 14 Jan: Harrispool v Cardif, Mans-field v Doccaster.

AUTO WHITESTOR THE STATE AND THE STATE OF TH

Ladbrokes have cut the odds on the American Tiger Woods topping the 1997 USPGA Tour money list in his first 1997 USPIGA 10th money ust in his rist full year as a professional from 25-1 to 8-1 following heavy support. Nick Faldo is 4-1 to with a Mejor this year.

APOLIO CHALLENGE (Valdermena, Sp) Leading first-round service, (88 or in lunders stated): 69 5 Webster. 72 8 Training (Den). 74 J Higgirs, N Van Hootejem (Bey. 75 A Tar, N Brig. 5, 76 S Gattecher. 77 K Valnola Fint, A Well, C Wests, 78 J Boherton, D Museroft.

ice hockey Nitle NY Rangers 2 Colorado 2 (v/t/; Otavas 3 Yam-pa Bay 4; Monteaul 5 Hardord 4; Anahem 1 Ven-couver 5.

Hable Certifis

ENGLISH OPEN (Kettering) Men's singles prefixingly group winners: C Prompton (Kerti. G Chapman (Sumy), P Marchal (forterine, D Buse (Sumy), E Smith (Normon Enterine), D Buse (Sumy), E Smith (Normon (Bertshire), Selected prefixingly sensitis Chammon to D Mothern (Sumy) 21-13 19-21 21-32; Regions to S Show (Bertshire), 21-12 19-21; Marchal to P Wood (Normophare) 21-12 1-12-15; Smith to E Hoofe (Wats) 21-8 21-16; Thompson of M Mchap (Marchalles), 21-16 21-16; Thompson of M Mchap (Marchalles), 21-12 11-14; Thompson of M Mchap (Marchalles), 21-12 11-21 11-2 21.12.11.21.21.18. EMILIARY PERMIT AND TERM (AND TERM (NEW PERM) ADDRESS AND THE MEMORY FROM THE MEMORY AND THE

Snooker

Table tennis

er from the Swe-

POOLS FORECAST Third Division 15 Portsmouth v Bolton .

First Division

44 Clydebank v St Mirren ... 45 Dundae v Andrie 48 Morton v East Pile Second Division

48 Berwick v Dumbarton... 49 Brechin v Hamilton and Brechin V remitter in Composes; Stenhouseman V Laugston, Third Division: Alton Rovers v A-loc; Fortar o, Queen's Pan, Tennonis Scottlish Cap second round East Styling v Brora, Ross Courny v Montrose, Sportare v Arbonan, Stran-nar v Inventes. Caledonian Thesie, Whitehil Wei-

racry inventes Caledonian Thistle, Whitishid Wel-tor or Queen of the South.
Four drawed Ason Vida v Nevenestio, Manches-ter City v Crystal Polace, QPR v Barneloy, Don-caster v Coothe-Set.
Fello amagist Choista, Arsenal, Sheffield Unded. Brentfort, Cettic. Ten homes: Leeds, Liverpool, Winnbledon, Bury, Wreshum, Cardiff, Futham, Kilmamock, Dunden

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Football

7.30 unless stated (subject to pitch inspections) COCA-COLA CUP QUARTER-FINALS ton v Wimbledon (7.45) diesbrough v Liverpool (7.45) AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD SOUTHERN SECTION FIRST ROUND BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

THIRD DIVISION
Postponed: Ross County v invertiess Caledon-

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE Helffex v Mecclesfield (7.45) ... Telford v Stalybridge (7.45) ... UNISONO LEAGUE President's Cup first-round replay: Farsky Celti: v Guseley: First Olysion Cup second round: Bradford Park

> TODAY'S NUMBER

10.2m

The BBC's live coverage of last Sunday's FA Cup thirdround tie between Manchester United and Tottenham was watched by an average of 10.2m viewers. In companson, last year's televised Chelsea-Newcastle tie drew 8.5m viewers.

Avenue v Horrogate Town, First Division Cup second-round replay: Drokson v Astron Utd.

REWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Christchurch v Romsey; Petersfield v Astrostructures.

MORTHERM COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE CUP Third-round replay: Brigg v Badworth Welfare; Harrogate Rashey v Porteffact College; UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE John O'Hers League Cup third-round replay: Scisey v Arundel.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE FIRST DI-

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Man PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Manchester Utal v Sheffield Werinesday (7.0) Lat (Md Trafford). First Division: Huddenfield v Bischpool (7.0); Nots Courily v Aston Vita (7.0); Port Vale v Surdenfand (7.0); Postpanned: West Bromwed: v Wolves. Second Division: Hull v Grinsby (7.0); Mansfield v Bradford (7.0); Postponed: Barrisley v Manchester Chy. Third Division: Doncaster v Chester (7.0); Lincoln v Bury (7.0); Seaftorough v Rochdale (7.0); Walsoll v Wigen (7.0). Postponed: Scuritorpe v

FA Carling Premiership

Nationwide Football League

13 Manchester Cry v Crystal Palace......X

1 Aston Villa v Newcastle

2 Blackburn v Covertry

6 Notton Forest v Chelsea ...

g Wambledon v Derby ...

First Division

10 Bradiona City v Oxford Utd

12 lpswich v Sheffield Litd...

11 Grimsby v Port Vale

7 Shaffield Wednesday v Everton

8 Sunderland v Arsenal

3 Leeds v Leicester. 4 Liverpoor v West Ham

TODAY'S FIXTURES

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: E-gn City v Hartly. WELSH CUP Fourth-round replay: Correy v

Chesterfield, League Cup Group One: Burn-ley v Olcham 17.15).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Di-vision: Charlton v Bostol Rovers (2.0); Portsmouth v Asseral (7.0); Swandon v Isswert (2.0), Postponed: Oxford Utd v Crystal Palace; West Ham v Warford; Wimbledon v Bourne-mouth. FA YOUTH GUP Third round: Coventry v Tran-mers; Torquey v Luton; Gravesend & Northfeet

Rugby Union REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Cwi Service v RAF (2:15) (at Chiswick). ANGLO-WELSH CUP Pool 18: Swanson v Bath [7.0]. Basketball

18 OPR v Barnsley

17 Reading v Charton

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Converse Crystal Palace Other sports HOCKEY: Four-nations indoor tournament (Dundee and Edinburgh). TABLE TENNIS: Engish Open (kettering).

31 Barnet v Scunthorpe 32 Brighton v Northamp 18 Southerd v Norwich. 33 Cambridge Utd v Exeter

Second Division 19 Blackpool v Luton 20 Bournemouth v Rotherhom... 21 Bristol City v Burnley 22 Bury v Walsoff 23 Chesterfield v Bristol Rovers ... 24 Gillmeham v Stockport 26 Plymouth v Crewo

27 Walford v Shrowsbury

29 Wycombe v Polerborough

28 Wresham v Notrs County

35 Cariisle y Torquay ... 36 Chester v Hartiepool 37 Doncaster v Colchester ... 38 Fulham v Darlington....... 39 Heretord v Mansfield Also playing (not on coopens): Hull Cny : Sucursea, Leyton Orient v Rochdale: Wigan v Scarborough. **Bell's Scottish League**

Premier Division 40 Dunfermine v Dundee Littl. 42 Kilmamock v Raith Playing Sunday: Rangers v Aberdeon.



Robson poised to snatch Nadal

Football

ALAN NIXON

The roll call of exotic names at Middlesbrough is to be swelled by Miguel Angel Nadal, the Spanish international defender having heen tempted to leave

Barcelona for £3.2m. After weeks of negotiations the 30-year-old Nadal, nick-named "The Beast" will fly into Teesside this week to discuss personal terms which include a £1m a year salary. The Boro manager, Bryan Robson, is willing to invest heavily in the

with foreign imports like the Brazilian Emerson.

Golfer Lee Westwood aims to

make 1997 his year, page 19

Robson, however, will have to sell the cluh to Nadal as he had his heart set on joining Manchester United until they dropped their interest when he became meligible for the final stages of the Champions Lcague.

Leeds United are also looking in Spain for a new recruit. Their manager. George Graham, spent the weekend in Madrid attempting to finalise a move for the striker Haim Revivo. The Celta Vigo forward would cost around £2.5m.

veiled Ramon Vega as Tottenham's "Tony Adams". The 25-year-old Swiss defender completed his £3.7m move from the Italian side Cagliari six months after rejecting Francis' advances in favour of a move to

Francis refused to give up on Vega - born in Switzerland of Spanisb parents - and with the Sardinian side suffering a cash crisis. he moved in again. Vega's arrival on a four-and-

a-half year contract follows the captures of Steffen Iversen and John Scales, taking the Spurs manager's spending in barely a

"I've been criticised for not ong out and spending money out the last month has shown "The Aston Villa midfielder" going out and spending money but the last month has shown we're amhitious and we want to do it," said Francis, who is convinced the versatile Vega will prove as successful at White Hart Lanc as Adams has been

at Highbury. ~l see Ramon as a Tony Adams type, a leader on the field, and I'm certain he is captaincy material," he said. "His experience in Italy means he has learned a great deal and with him in the side we have a number of options at the back.

"With Ramon we've got

Sasa Curcic has done an aboutturn following his weekend outburst and apologised to his manager, Brian Little.

Villa's record signing was threatening to quit the club, unhappy at being out of the first team. The 24-year-old Serb described his decision to leave Bolton in a £4m move in mid-August as "the biggest mistake of my life". However, Curcic has faxed a letter of regret to Little and is now boping to find a "constructive and positive way

His apology could now put him in the frame for Saturday's bome game with Newcastle after an eight-match absence.

"I have received a faxed letter from Sasa apologising for his words." Little said. "He apologised for the distress be has caused and also apologised to the chairman, supporters and the club. It lonks as though he realises that he did something

Dean Holdsworth has been given time off by Wimbledon to sort out his private life. The £5m-rated striker has been the subject of lurid allegations by two teenage girls.

"Dean's family is more im-portant than football," the Wimbledon manager, Joe Kin-near, said. "When I spoke to him it was clear his mind was in turmoil. I have told him to take all the time he needs." Wimbledon play Bolton in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final at Burnden Park tonight.

The Southampton manager, Graeme Souness, is set to escape disciplinary action for his confrontation with the referee Graham Poll after his side's FA Cup exit at Reading. Souness felt the game should not have been played, but Poll has not reported him to the FA.

Forest in disarray as Hill departs

Nottingham Forest can expect a backlash from fans at Saturday's home match with Chelsea after the rejection of a takeover hid left the cash-starved Premiership club in turmoil.

As disillusioned supporters accused shareholders of putting personal gain before the club's interests, the renewed uncertainty led yesterday to the resignation of Forest's general manager, Alan Hill, who is to rejoin his former boss, Frank Clark, as assistant manager al Manchester City.
One of 111 shareholders who

voted to accept a takeover of fer from Sandy Anderson at Monday's extraordinary general meeting, Hill reached his decision after the Anderson consortium failed by 31 votes to secure the 75 per cent majority needed for their bid to succeed.

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The verdict will leave the relegation-threatened club without transfer funds for another month and the 79 sharebolders whose votes blocked Anderson's plans had to run the gauntlet of angry supporters as they left the meeting. They can brace them-selves for a further reaction on Saturday from fans who suspect them of seeking more money for their £1 shares.

Alternative hids offer an immediate cash-in value of up to £24,000 per share. Anderson, whose proposal offered no instant windfall, accused sharebolders of "wanting money we felt should go into the club to go in their pockets instead."

But Peter Blackbourn, who has emerged as a spokesman for the "no" group, last night denied the charge; "That was not the motive. What we want is the best possible deal for the club and for the shareholders to retain a major say in the running of the club. We did not feel the terms of Anderson's bid offered this. We also felt the £13m his group proposed to pay was a steal when we believe a flotation could value the club at £60m.

The favourite to win control now is a consortium organised by the former Tottenham chairman, Irving Scholar, and a Nottingham author. Phil Soar, which has the financial support of the owner of Saracens rugby cluh, Nigel Wray.

Hill, meanwhile, said that dissatisfaction with his new role he had been assistant manager under Clark - and failure to gain assurances over his future were factors in his decision to leave. "General manager sounded to me like a title given to somebody awaiting the sack and I don't think I deserved that in-

dignity." he said. Hill said yesterday he had formed the impression Pearce did not want him - hut Pearce reacted with surprise to this. "I did not think I had given that impression. To lose Alan is a real blow," he said. Nigel Clough, currently on loan at Forest from Manchester City, is now in line to assist Pearce.





Emily Drumm celebrates catching the England captain in a testimonial match in Auckland yesterday with team-mates (from left) Sir Richard Hadlee, Allan Border, Merv Hughes and the successful ugby union player Ofisa Tonu'u. For Michael Atherton (right), that long walk back to the pavilion just gets longer and longer Photographs: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

Atherton caught out by safe hands of Ms Drumm

Cricket

Caught by a woman off the bowling of a rugby player. Mike Atherton will prohably joke about it one day, hut sympathy from two of the world's leading women players was little consolation after becoming the butt of dressing-room bumour here yesterday, writes Mark Baldwin from Auckland.

England's struggling captain had planned a few runs and a lot of fun when he volunteered to play in a benefit match for the New Zealand Test bowler, Danny Morrison. He made 10... but did not look too happy after being caught in the deep by Emily Drumm, the only woman

playing in the match between the All Stars and the Dream

Team at Auckland Warriors' Rugby League stadium. 'I can't remember it," Atherton said after being caught in the deep hy Ms Drum, a regular member of New Zealand's Test side who played in the World Cup final defeat by England at Lord's three years ago. Yesterday, she almost dropped the chance to make an even bigger name for herself - hut held on to the catch at long-

off at the second attempt off the bowling of Ofisa Tonu u. "It's a nice honour to eatch out Mike Atherton," the 22-year-old remarked pithily. "But I misjudged the ball and nearly wore it in the gob!" All-rounder Emily, whose eight brothers and sisters were among a crowd of 3,000, also picked up three wickets with her medium pace bowl-

County, losing tail, joins a

league — how bizarre (7) With full expenses com-

pletely exhausted (3-2) Wild blows shake army in-

One half can be written as

dents' prank at university,

taking on a country (9) Pagan in unfinished Field-

ing novel (7) Utter demand to support

Finger most often crossed in libraries? (5)

Top player, at end of July, is off-colour (5)

former partner (7)

one in this formal piece

Tropic island grain (9) Mostly pleasant, a stu-

ing - including that of England's vice-captain Nasser has a good pair of hands - and I think she's played quite Hussain - but it was Atherton who earned her sympa-lhy. "I sort of feel sorry for him," she said. "He hasn't been the happiest chap out there and I haven't seen him smiling too much, but he's probably got a lot on his mind at the moment. I suppose it was unlucky the catch went to me. It wouldn't have mattered if it had been some-

one else." Atherton also received welcome support from Barbara Daniels, the vice-captain of England's women's team and the executive director of the Women's Cricket Association. "On her day, Emily is one of the best women's players in the world," Daniels said. "She is a powerful strokemaker and a more than useful swing bowler and

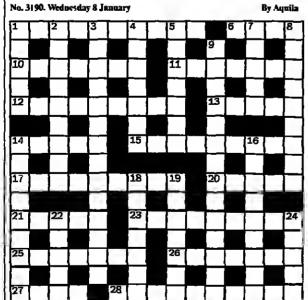
a bit of cricket against men's sides."

Atherton sportingly agreed to support Morrison, his former Lancashire team-mate, and took along five of his colleagues for the 20-overs-a-side match, watched by a big television audience as well as a noisy crowd,

which was played under floodlights on an artificial pitch. The England women's captain, Karen Smithies, who has been a critic of Atherton's leadership of her team's male counterparts, said: "Today's events are good for us because it shows to people that women can play cricket but it is a double-edged sword because we only get this exposure on the back of the men."

Australia lose again, page 20

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS Dora sleeps rough

she is spotted in the jungle

6 Home fixture for City (4) 10 Wild idea to enter him in medlev-race (7) 11 Game marshal concerned 27

with the country (7)
12 Playing dead by agreement (9) Leaflet from place near

Harrow, reportedly (5)

14 Short stop for a butterfly

Play parience? (9) Cliff's epic price revision

20 Contests of rare champi-

ons (5) 21 Piece of Vitgil I adapted

for Greek epic (5)

Dignity shown by eccentric people in US honours (4-5)

Ancieu Mariner, experi-

enced performer (3,4) Glowing all over at fire-Neighbouring in kitchen

extension (4) Simple to place lead against ray-damage (10)

All there, detectives follow central clue (5) Rifle-ammo improved to the French standard (9) Sue, for example, called

name in acid-rain circles Spiny lish short of oxygen
— force throws it out (7)



The red, red Robin will be sob. sob, sobbin' today at the news that the cluh that was rugby league's high-flyer has come rumbling to earth with a sick-

The directors of Hull Kingston Rovers yesterday revealed that they will apply in the High Court in Lecds next Mon-day for the club to be put into the hands of the administrators.

If that application is successful, the financial consultants Coopers and Lybrand will take over the running of the club in an effort to reduce a deht nearing the £1m mark. The Rohins have been bohhin' deeper into the red for years.

This week's announcement is a grievous indignity for a club which, little more than a decade ago, was the most powerful in the tand. During their great years between the late 70s and the mid-80s, Rovers won the First Division championship three times, the Premiership twice and the Regal Trophy, as well as going to Wembley three times, returning once with the

Challenge Cup. Humberside was the centre of the rugby league universe and



Happy days: Hull Kingston Rovers take on their great Humberside rivals Hull at their old Craven Park ground in 1985

if Hull KR, lacking some of the glamour of their neighbours, Hull, were less admired, they were - with players like Len Casev, Chris Burton and David Walkinson in their side - more

Along with their local rivals, Rovers pioneered the recruitment of overseas players, with the likes of Gary Prohm and Mark Broadhurst from New Zealand and John Dorahy from Australia illuminating sides coached for an astonishing 14 years by Roger Millward.

Along with Hull. Rovers fuelled a sleady rise in the support for the game and one demon-

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stration of their fiscal muscle came when they shattered the world transfer record by signing George Fairbairn from Wigan for £72,500 in 1980.

Hull KR's decline since those heady days has been along all fronts, with relegation in 1989 coinciding with the supposedly life-saving wrench of leaving their Craven Park ground.

Like several other clubs, Rovers have discovered that selling up the hereditary acres. for housing or supermarkets. rarely solves any underlying malaise, and their move to a new Craven Park has been a particular failure.

sion saw average attendances still lagging below 1,700. "Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Carary Whart, Lundon E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

That upturn in their playing fortunes - spearheaded by an imported player recalling their old, adventurous policy, the Papua New Guinean Stanley Gene - has not restored them

Hull KR have always been

the club of the eastern half of

the city, but those seeking out

their current home have re-

marked that if it was any further

east they would have a better chance of attracting support from the Netherlands.

The inaccessible and un-

inviting nature of their

windswept new stadium has heen a factor in Rovers' de-

clining crowds. Even last sea-son's promotion campaign from the depths of the Second Divi-

to any of their old prosperity or stability. The gap between ex-penditure and income has left them losing more than £3,000 a week and has forced this week's course of action upon the board of directors.

While Rovers are merely the latest in a long list of clubs to admit to crippling financial prob-lems, few have gone from a position of such strength to one

of such weakness so quickly.

The writing on the wall has led some, like the club's former ebairman and, along with Millward, its most distinguished a merger with bitter rivals Hull as the only way out. However, when Lowe actively urged that solution last year, he was vir-tually howled down by supporters who derided him as "a

The League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, faced with the embarrassing task of explaining how a game in receipt of £89m from Rupert Murdoch has three clubs - Bramley and Keighley are the others - in ad-ministration, said that Rovers had been too deep in debt to be

rescued by the modest £135,000 they have so far received. He too believes that a merg-er is the answer. "We have been saying for some time that two teams in that city chasing the same dream is not feasible," he

If the administrators cannot now achieve success in bringing the debts under control, the club faces the prospect of being wound up by its creditors.

حكمتا من الاحل

